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**THIRD REPORT SUBMITTED BY ITALY
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 2
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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Ministero dell'Interno

DIPARTIMENTO PER LE LIBERTA' CIVILI E L'IMMIGRAZIONE
Direzione Centrale per i Diritti Civili, la Cittadinanza e le Minoranze

III REPORT BY ITALY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES (IN COMPLIANCE WITH ART. 25 PARAGRAPH 2)

YEAR 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A – General Part

A. 1) Premise	p. 3
A. 2) The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and its Incorporation in our Legal System	p. 4
A. 3) Scope of Application of the Framework-Convention	p. 5
A. 4) Specific updated information on minority language communities in Italy	p. 5

Part B - Implementation of the Framework Convention

B.1) Adopted Measures	
Article 1	p. 8
Article 2	p. 9
Article 3	p.12
Article 4	p.14
Article 5	p.27
Article 6	p.28
Article 7	p.35
Article 8	p.44
Article 9	p.44
Article 10	p.49
Article 11	p.51
Article 12	p.53
Article 13	p.55
Article 14	p.55
Article 15	p.63
Article 16	p.63
Article 17	p.64
Article 18	p.64
Article 19	p.65

Part C – Monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention

C.1) Fact-sheets drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior relying on data provided by Prefectures-UTG	p.66
Arbëresh minority	p.67
Catalan minority	p.76
German-speaking minority (Cimbrians)	p.77
Croatian minority	p.79
French-speaking minority	p.80

Franco-Provençal speaking minority	p.81
Friulian minority	p.85
German-speaking minority (Sappada)	p.87
Greek minority	p.88
Ladin minority	p.91
German-speaking minority (Mòcheni)	p.94
Occitan minority	p.95
Sardinian minority	p.100
Slovenian minority	p.102
German-speaking minority (Walser)	p.104

Part D –Appendix

- D.1) Regional laws quoted in the Report p.108 e segue
- D.2) List of projects concerning the use of the language in the Public Administration and toponymy for the years 2001-2006, financed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in compliance with Law No. 482/99
- D.3) Projects financed by the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR) with the funds of the a.m. Law referring to school-years 2006-2007; 2007-2008; 2008-2009
- D.4) Table drawn up by MIUR including a list of Roma pupils broken down by Region and level of education s.y. 2007-2008
- D.5) Table drawn up by MIUR including a list of Roma pupils broken down by Province and level of education s.y. 2007-2008
- D.6) Decision of the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority on the Situation of the Minority itself in the light of Law No. 38/2001
- D.7) Paper by the Federal National Committee of the Linguistic Minorities of Italy (CONFEMILI) concerning the Monitoring of the Framework Convention on National Minorities.

Please note: in the Appendix, only the documents under items D.6 and D.7 have been translated into English.

Part A – General Part

A.1) Premise

Italy attaches great importance to the protection of linguistic minorities and it has produced a set of instruments to recognise them the right to use the respective languages in social and administrative relations.

The Constitution of the Italian State was adopted on 22nd December 1947 and it entered into force on 1st January 1948; it protects minorities by means of various provisions: art. 2 generally recognises and guarantees the inviolable rights of man, both as an individual and as part of social groups in which he expresses his personality; art. 3 states that all citizens have equal social dignity and that they are equal before the law regardless of sex, race, language, religion, political opinions and personal and social conditions.

However article 6 is of paramount importance, as it explicitly states that the Republic protects linguistic minorities with specific provisions. This principle is further confirmed by other articles which on the one hand aim at ensuring that the Italian legal system comply with generally recognised international law provisions and on the other they focus the attention on the adjustment of legislation principles and methods to the requirements arising from autonomy and decentralisation (art. 5).

The system of local and regional autonomy is particularly relevant to the protection and promotion of minorities.

A few minority groups living in border regions (Aosta Valley and South Tyrol) enjoy a special form of autonomy as the Statutes of these Regions were adopted by means of constitutional laws.

An important stage in the development of our legal system was achieved by means of **Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999 entitled “Provisions to Protect the Historical Linguistic Minorities”**, published in the Official Journal No. 297 of 20th December 1999. This Law, though upholding the principle of national unity, recognises the multiplicity of the linguistic and cultural forms of expression in our Country and at the same time it attaches importance to the role of autonomy in terms of administrative decentralisation by allocating to local authorities fundamental tasks in the implementation of relevant provisions.

The aim of this Law is enhancing and protecting the language and culture of the following populations: **Albanians** (Calabria, Basilicata, Molise, Puglia and Sicily), **Catalans** (Sardinia), **Germans** (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Piedmont, Trentino-South Tyrol and Aosta Valley), **Greeks** (Calabria and Puglia), **Slovenians** (Friuli-Venezia Giulia) and **Croats** (Molise) as well as of populations speaking **French** (Piedmont and Aosta Valley), **Franco-Provençal** (Piedmont, Puglia and Aosta Valley), **Friulian** (Friuli-Venezia Giulia), **Ladin** (Trentino South-Tyrol and Veneto) **Occitan** (Piedmont, Liguria and Calabria) and **Sardinian** (Sardinia).

The legal framework was completed by means of **Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2001 entitled “Provisions in Favour of the Slovenian Minority of Friuli Venezia Giulia”**. The aim of the law is ensuring the consistency of the protective measures in favour of this minority, which lives in the majority of the Region’s Provinces,

including some which enjoyed a particular system of protection arising from international agreements concluded after the Second World War, namely art. 8 of the **Treaty of Osimo**, concluded with former Yugoslavia and ratified by means of Law No. 73 of 14th March 1977; art. 8 confirmed the protective provisions in favour of the Slovenian minority envisaged in the special Statute attached to the London Memorandum of 5th October 1954.

These circumstances in addition to the geographic location of the Slovenian speaking community near the country of origin indicated that it was advisable to issue a specific law in favour of this minority.

Furthermore it is worth stressing that in almost all **Regions** where minority language speaking communities live, protective provisions have been issued in the framework of the responsibilities entrusted to the Regions by the Constitution. Some of them have been adopted even before the entry into force of the Framework Law. Others have been issued in the course of the years.

A.2) The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and its Incorporation in our Legal System

The Framework Convention was done in Strasbourg on 1st February 1995 and it was ratified by Italy by means of Law No. 302 of 28th August 1997; it entered into force on 1st March 1998.

The implementation of the Convention is periodically checked by the Council of Europe through the Advisory Committee of Experts, which was set up for this purpose.

Upon request of the above body, the Ministry of the Interior drew up various periodical reports through the collaboration with the involved central and local administrations. In particular, the municipalities of the provinces where the minorities live have been involved through the Prefectures to acquire elements on the situation of minorities and on the implementation of the Convention, thereby also promoting the knowledge of this international instrument.

The **first Report** was forwarded on 3rd May 1999 and relying on it the Committee of Experts adopted its First Opinion on 14th September 2001 and carried out a visit in Italy.

The **second Report**, forwarded on 14th May 2004, was followed up by a visit to Italy of the members of the above mentioned Committee from 10th to 14th January 2005, which took place in Rome as well as in Trieste and Udine.

On the basis of these results, the Committee adopted its second Opinion on Italy on 24th February 2005, to which this Office reacted by drawing up its considerations in collaboration with the various involved administrations.

Upon examination of the above considerations, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers ResCMN(2006)5 was adopted on 14th June 2006; the Resolution highlighted the considerable results achieved and the gaps that still exist as a result of the failure to implement the provisions aimed at the protection of the Slovenian minority, envisaged by Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2001 as well as of the lack of a

Law at state level to protect Roma and of inadequacies in the sector of television broadcasts in the minority languages.

A.3) Scope of Application of the Framework-Convention

The Convention does not contain a definition of national minority. Even our legal system does not envisage this concept, as the Italian legislation recognises and protects only **the linguistic minorities that settled in ancient times in a defined territory** and that are explicitly listed in art. 2 of Law 482/99.

The relevant national legislation is made up by the above mentioned Law No. 482/99 and by its implementing regulation adopted by means of President's of the Republic Decree No. 345 of 2nd May 2001 as well as by Law No. 38/2001 and it basically applies the principles enshrined in the Framework Convention.

The requirement necessary for the recognition and the protection granted to a minority is the territorial delimitation, since the right to the use of the language in relations with the Public Administration, the right to education and the access to the media envisaged by Law No. 482/99 (art. 4) can only be exercised on a defined territory and upon request of the minorities themselves through 1/3 of councillors or 15% of the local population.

As regards Roma and Sinti, not covered by Law No. 482/99 as they are not settled in a given territory, the Committee of Experts holds that they can benefit from the protection envisaged by the Framework Convention, in consideration of the historical presence of some members of these communities on our territory.

This principle was expressed by the Committee in its First Opinion on Italy of 14th September 2001 and it was given due account in the subsequent reports of the Italian Government which also highlighted the activity carried out in view of the inclusion of Roma and Sinti (see *Il Commento Italia* of 21st August 2005).

A.4) Specific updated information on minority language communities in Italy

On the basis of Laws No. 482/99 and 38/2001 the measures to promote the languages in the following sectors have been stepped up:

- Teaching of languages in schools;
- Improvement of the educational offer in universities;
- Use of the minority languages in joint bodies and in the public administration;
- Updating of toponyms in state signs;
- Radio and television broadcasts in the minority languages;
- Financing of activities aimed at the protection of the minority languages;
- Establishment of specialised institutes.

These initiatives have favoured the development of relations and partnerships with actors (institutions, NGO's and local authorities) outside the purely minority sector,

thereby enhancing potentials as a real wealth of the territory. Thanks to these initiatives the minorities entertain a relation of dialogue/comparison/meeting with more wide reaching realities, their competitiveness is stimulated, new forms of financing are identified, human resources are involved, training for the young can be provided, the visibility and role of the minorities as an element of cooperation and integration are increased and finally minorities are included in an European sphere and they are seen as an opportunity of growth and achievement.

The law for the protection of minorities made the guarantees for all minorities homogeneous thereby also favouring stable connections among the minority communities that cherish the same language, the same culture and the same traditions. Therefore, it is advisable that small communities establish consortia or in any case identify forms of collaboration and understanding aimed at the management of the shared cultural, educational and linguistic activities on the basis of the general guidelines laid down by the new law. The establishment of the Union of Municipalities of Grecia Salentina and of Arberia has yielded good results. Thus the culture of minorities as heritage of the nation can be safeguarded in a spirit of collaboration and pluralism; furthermore conflicts and tensions that may still exist can be avoided or mitigated.

Thanks to the financing envisaged by Law No. 482/99, the regions were able to develop projects aimed at the promotion of their language and culture, as well as to implement important synergies among municipalities and between municipalities and mountain communities.

Most frequently the financed projects included the **establishment and implementation of linguistic helpdesks** in the municipalities where the minorities live, mainly with the aim of ensuring them the use of the minority language in their relations with the public administration.

In the course of time the involved personnel undertook the commitment of carrying out in the best possible way these tasks, including by developing promotion and enhancement activities concerning minority languages. Thanks to the considerable motivation of the young employees involved not only have the Internet sites of the various communities been developed but the informatisation of the services and the fruibility of data have also been guaranteed, by relying on the provisions envisaged by the code of the digital administration.

The objectives that were to be achieved through this activity can be summed up as follows:

- Strengthening all actions aimed at the protection and promotion of the linguistic and cultural heritage of minorities.
- Supporting all bodies, associations and individuals that carry out actions for the promotion of the language, particularly by providing the translation of texts with public relevance into the minority language (e.g. tourist leaflets, toponymy, indications of archaeological sites and monuments, menus in restaurants).

- Establishment of a structure that constantly promotes and coordinates actions in favour of the minority language and that checks and/or updates the Internet sites.
- Producing and disseminating information material necessary to step up the use of the language, to enhance the linguistic and cultural heritage, to promote the feeling of belonging to a community and to strengthen the constant relation between the members of the community, wherever they live and their country of origin.

After about ten years since the entry into force of Law No. 482/99 it is possible to state that the balance is largely positive; its effects include a considerable increase of the demand to use the minority language and a positive development of persons, who are made more aware of the value of their language and culture in view of the promotion of a dynamic bilingualism.

At the same time the cooperation between the associations already active in the sector and the administrations was strengthened in view of the cultural and social progress of the local community.

Furthermore many cultural initiatives are worth mentioning: the establishment of linguistic archives, the collection of bibliography collections and the drafting of textbooks for compulsory education schools.

In the framework of collaboration relations there have been frequent cultural exchanges with the origin countries of the minority groups resulting, in a few cases, in visits by government representatives to Italy as was the case with the President of Albania; finally in the summer of 2008 a Euro Mediterranean Festival was organised, in which all the Albanian communities of the Mediterranean participated.

Part B – Implementation of Measures carried out in compliance with the Framework Convention

B.1) Adopted Measures

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

The protection of human rights is one of the guiding criteria of the Italian legislation, as is testified by the 1948 Constitution which protects all fundamental rights and liberties guaranteed by international instruments.

In Italy specific protection is ensured to minorities on the national territory following the ratification of the Framework Convention by means of Law No. 302 of 28th August 1997; furthermore Italy has become a party to the main treaties concerning the respect for human rights, providing the necessary cooperation to the various relevant international bodies.

In particular Italy signed the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and it is a Member State of OSCE and related Institutions including ODIHR.

In connection with the implementation of the above mentioned “Framework-Convention for the Protection of National Minorities”, Italy participated in the periodical meetings of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts held in 2006 in Brasov, Romania on 7th-10th March and in Strasbourg on 18th-20th October, as well as in those organised in 2007 in Strasbourg on 21st-23rd March and 17th-18th October; during the meetings the opinion of Italy on the agenda items was submitted, particularly on the admissibility of censuses of minorities and the teaching of minority languages.

Furthermore, Italy also sent representatives to the VII and VIII Meetings of the Committee of Experts (DH-MIN) held in Strasbourg on the 12th-13th March and 15th-16th October 2008 respectively, during which discussions focused on documents concerning ethnic-based censuses and access to mass media by linguistic communities. An Italian delegation also took part in the Conferences of the OSCE High Commissioner organised in Oslo on 18th-19th June 2008 dealing with the Recommendations on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities and the one organised in Bolzano on 2nd-3rd October 2008 and dealing with the Recommendations on National Minorities in Inter-State Relations.

In connection with the situation of the Roma Communities and the policies on their integration, the Italian Ministry of the Interior sent a representative to the following international events:

- 4th -5th May 2006 – Bucharest – International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies on Roma, Sinti and Travellers.
- 3rd May 2007 – Rome – ECRI Round Table for the Third Report on Italy adopted on 16th December 2005 concerning the state of implementation of antidiscrimination policies in our Country.
- 27th September 2007 – Warsaw – Supplementary Human Dimension meeting organised by OSCE – Participation in the working day dedicated to Roma and Sinti.
- 10th -11th July 2008 – Vienna – Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting, organised by OSCE on Sustainable Policies for Roma and Sinti Integration; on that occasion the policy of the government was described and clarifications were provided as regards the modalities of intervention adopted in connection with the census.
- 16th September 2008 – Bruxelles – First EU Roma Summit organised by the European Commission; on that occasion the objectives of the census were clarified.
- 29th September 2008 – Warsaw – Supplementary Human Dimension meeting organised by OSCE; on that occasion the activity carried out by Italy to favour the social inclusion of Roma was described; in particular the Government guidelines aimed at the solution of problems arising from nomad camps were reiterated, including the related favourable stance taken by the European Commission.
- 6th -9th October 2008 – Strasbourg – Council of Europe – 118th Meeting of the European Social Charter Governmental Committee.

Article 2

The provisions of this framework Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States.

In this connection experiences acquired in the area of transfrontier relations appear to be extremely interesting. Transfrontier cooperation enables the strengthening of cultural, social and linguistic ties across frontiers on the basis of friendly and cooperative relations in a flexible and open way.

Good neighbourliness relations involve Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, France, Greece and Albania.

First of all it is worth stressing that relations between Italy, Croatia and Slovenia have developed, also as a result of a legal framework that has been gradually adapted to the needs of the parties involved.

In the past, the Italian autochthonous minority was treated as a whole in the Republic of Yugoslavia and at present it is divided between Slovenia and Croatia – two very different countries, that however show special attention towards minorities, that are protected both by the respective Constitutions and by specific legislation.

On 8th September 2008, Italy and Slovenia signed a Joint Declaration which states as follows: *“They also underlined the importance of safeguarding minority*

rights as well as the significant role of minorities in strengthening bilateral relations”.

In the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Croatia it is further stressed that both Countries share an interest in protecting the rights, the culture and the welfare of the Italian minority in the Republic of Croatia and of the Croatian minority in the Italian Republic.

In Italy, the number of persons who apply to study Slovenian, both for educational and professional reasons, is increasing as at present there are more jobs in Slovenia than in the Italian area near the border. In Slovenian schools in Italy, non Slovenian groups, made up by Italians and by immigrants from other parts of former Yugoslavia, account for 20-30% of registrations. It is worth mentioning that in Trieste it is envisaged to introduce Slovenian as second community language in the curriculum of a junior secondary school, in cooperation with schools in Slovenia. Still as regards Trieste there is an increase of projects aimed at developing courses of Slovenian taught as second language in State schools with Italian as teaching language.

This situation is also made possible by a set of agreements among schools, both as regards the training of teachers in the framework of the Comenius European programmes to identify a model of training in multilingual areas (training course with the participation of 20 teachers coming from Wales, Carinthia, Slovenia, Friuli, Sardinia and from the Ladin area of the Dolomites) and as regards the setting up of a network of schools to develop activities aimed at improving the communication and transmission of skills through the exchange of teachers.

This project is an opportunity to know each other and to improve the quality of the educational offer.

With a view to promoting transfrontier cooperation through the enhancement of languages, the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with the Prefecture of Trieste organised the “Trieste Quadrilateral Seminar” which was held on 5th December 2005 and in which representatives of Austria, Croatia and Slovenia took part. The aim of the initiative was the dissemination of Recommendation 2005 (3) of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on teaching neighbouring languages in border regions among educational authorities, economic bodies and local authorities.

Thanks to the meeting it was possible to verify that a multiplicity of activities are carried out to favour in each country the teaching of neighbouring languages (German and Slovenian in Italy, Italian and Slovenian in Austria, Slovenian and Italian in Croatia and Italian and Croatian in Slovenia).

The participants in the Seminar were also able to discuss the difficulties that hinder the spreading of the “neighbouring languages” and that arise from the competition of English as “lingua franca”, which tends to prevail in exchanges and in linguistic relations thereby making it useless to learn neighbouring languages; participants have also expressed the hope that more attention is devoted to the

linguistic needs of economic, political and institutional actors in the framework of transfrontier cooperation.

Another important initiative is the Project S.A.P.E.V.A. (Study, Analysis, Promotion and Enhancement of the cultural, historical and linguistic heritage of the Italian and Slovenian National Communities in the transfrontier area) co-financed by the Interreg III A Italy-Slovenia Programme. The main objective of the Project is the improvement of relations with the respective majority populations, as well as placing the specific case in a wider European perspective.

The Programme Interreg III also includes the project **AGRIMET**, addressed to agricultural schools of Friuli Venezia Giulia and Carinthia, which have created a network to develop activities aimed at improving communication and the transfer of skills through the exchange of teachers.

In this connection it is worth mentioning a new agreement for the recognition of school certificates and for the creation of a network among the universities that operate in an area that, although small in size, is densely populated; they include the Universities of Klagenfurt, Udine, Gorizia, Trieste, Pola/Pula, Fiume/Rijeka and Zara/Zadar. Agreements have already been signed and various practical projects have been developed. One of them is in favour of the mobility of students in this area.

A further area of interest is the joint development of study courses: for example a joint Master degree course in Marine Biology was launched with the University of Trieste. Furthermore a joint Ph.D. course in Diversity Management with the Universities of Graz and Bologna is being prepared. The underlying idea is creating specific courses of intercultural, together with the Università del Litorale/Univerza na Primorskem of Capodistria/Koper and with the University of Trieste to promote intercultural dialogue and shape together a pluralist dynamic society, highlighting the contribution made by the various cultures.

As far as the relations with Croatia are concerned, it is worth mentioning that at present the Italian minority living in areas where they are traditionally settled, particularly Istria, the Kvarner Bay and Dalmatia, counts 30,000 members. The Italian minority is represented by the Italian Union, it has a seat within the Croatian Parliament, it can rely on a publisher (EDIT), on a theatre company, on a Centre of Historical Research and it has 46 schools and 3 pedagogy departments.

In Istria administrative bilingualism exists. Many Istrian municipalities have adopted *full* bilingualism in their municipal statutes (18 on the whole including Pola, Rovigno, Buie, Umago, Cittanova, Dignano, Parenzo).

The Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry is specifically committed towards the territories where the Italian minority is traditionally settled – in view of a gradual strengthening of the presence of the Italian institutions, two Honorary Vice Consulates were recently inaugurated (in Pola, main Istrian town and in Buie, centre of the former B Zone) and a Honorary Consulate was inaugurated in Ragusa/Dubrovnik. Officials periodically visit the area with monitoring, coordination and awareness raising functions.

Italy is aware of the fact that one of the most important factors for the strengthening of ties among States is the protection granted to minorities and to the

promotion of languages, for this reason it supports the Italian minority living in Croatia and Slovenia by means of funding allocated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For the 2007-2009 period, the support in favour of the Italian minority implies allocations amounting to 4,650,000 Euros per year (and allocations in favour of the Association of Expatriates amounting to 1,550,000 Euros per year).

In addition to that there is the financial commitment in favour of the Italian Union (former Osimo), that at present amounts to more than 2,700,000 Euros.

Furthermore, the Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia allocates about one million Euros.

Article 3

1 Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2 Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

The freedom rights arising from the Framework Convention are also enshrined in the Italian Constitution whose article 2 envisages the enhancement of all social groupings in which human personality is realised, including individuals belonging to linguistic minorities. Linguistic minorities are worth protecting first of all as they are social groupings as envisaged by the above mentioned article 2, secondly on the basis of the principle of substantial equality (art. 3, paragraph 2) and thirdly because they are linguistic minorities as a result of art. 6.

Both Law No. 482/99 and Law No. 38/01 meet the actual needs of individuals belonging to minority groups, who can freely choose whether to belong to a minority or not.

The precondition for the functioning of these provisions is the delimitation of the territorial area where the community to be protected lives. The process of identification of the concerned communities falls under the responsibility of the Province, that carries it out after having acquired the opinions of the concerned Municipalities, upon request of either at least 15% of citizens registered in the electoral lists or by one third of the Councillors of the relevant Municipalities.

Since the entry into force of Law No. 482/99, the Ministry of the Interior has been drawing up a list of municipalities belonging to the various minorities, which is periodically updated by including other communities that require to have access to the protection envisaged by the above mentioned Law. Therefore, this is a dynamic procedure, open to new applications submitted by local authorities. This is demonstrated by the fact that from June 2004, a month after the Second National Report was submitted until the 31st December 2008, **a further 75 delimited municipalities were included.**

The members of linguistic minorities are not quantified as the last census on languages dates back to 1921.

According to article 2, paragraph 1 of President's of the Republic Decree No. 276/2001, the aim of the census is quantifying the persons who normally reside in Italy.

In this connection, data on the citizenship and on the country of origin are collected, while elements concerning the language and the religion are not surveyed, as these aspects may provide indications as to ethnic origin resulting in sensitive information. According to art. 22 of Law No. 675/1996, any collection of data capable of indicating the ethnic origin implies the processing of sensitive personal data, which according to the above art. 22, paragraphs 3 and 3 bis must be authorised by an explicit legal provision, which must indicate the data to be processed, the operations that can be carried out and the important objectives in terms of public interest that have been pursued.

From the statistical point of view, the processing of these sensitive data is carried out in compliance with art. 11 of Legislative Decree No. 281/1999 on the basis of explicit indications laid down in the national Statistic programme adopted by means of a Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers following a complex procedure.

According to specific legal provisions, in two cases only when the census of the population is taken information on the size and territorial settlement of some linguistic groups is also acquired.

These cases refer to the collection of data concerning on the one hand to the members of the Mocheno, Cimbrian and Ladin speaking minorities, living in the Province of Trento and envisaged by Legislative Decree No. 592/1993 and on the other to the Italian, German and Ladin linguistic groups of the province of Bolzano, as envisaged by President's of the Republic Decree No. 752/1976.

While the former survey is purely optional, the latter is compulsory as according to the system during the general census, the declarations of membership of a linguistic group must also be collected from all citizens living in the province of Bolzano, including minors older than fourteen. Anyhow, the Provincial Statistical Institute (ASTAT) of Bolzano only indicates the size of the linguistic groups expressed in terms of percentage out of the total number of valid declarations made during the census.

Thus, the special privacy of personal data is ensured by depositing the declarations at the local judicial offices, which can provide applicants, upon their specific request, with the necessary documents to be submitted in certain cases (participation in public competitions, running for elections, etc.).

In its Second Opinion, the Committee of Ministers highlighted the failure to implement Law No. 38/2001 in favour of the Slovenians of Friuli Venezia Giulia owing to difficulties arising from the territorial delimitation of some municipalities and in particular of Trieste.

In this connection, it is to be pointed out that this problem has been solved as the present members of the **Joint Institutional Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority**, set up in compliance with art. 3 of Law No. 38/2001, **drew up the table** that identify the municipalities where the minority is traditionally settled

(art. 4 of Law No. 38/2001) and which applied to be included in the territorial delimitation.

The **delimitation** put forward by the Committee on the basis of a wide reaching majority **was adopted by means of a Decree of the President of the Republic dated 12 September 2007** (published in the Official Journal of 27th November 2007). This piece of legislation confirms the presence of the Slovenian speaking community in the central parts of the municipalities of Trieste and Gorizia and in Cividale and it includes these areas in the protected territories.

As regards paragraph 2 of this article, reference is made to the in depth considerations made in connection with the subsequent article 7.

Article 4

1 The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.

2 The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.

3 The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.

Italy timely proceeded with the adoption of legal instruments aimed at countering intolerance and discrimination.

In this connection Italy adopted **Law No. 654 of 13th October 1975** (Reale Law) to ratify and implement the New York International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which was opened for signature on 7th March 1966. Subsequently, in order to introduce more effective provisions to prevent and counter intolerance, the above law was supplemented and modified by means of **Law-Decree No. 122 of 26th April 1993**, which was later modified and turned into Law by **Law No. 205 of 25th June 1993**, entitled “Urgent Measures against Racial, Ethnic and Religious Discrimination”.

Legislative Decree No. 286 of 25th July 1998 entitled “Consolidated Text on the Provisions concerning Immigration and provisions on the Status of Aliens” , with modifications introduced by the Bossi-Fini Law envisages a specific civil judicial action against discrimination, which enables whoever feels to be discriminated against to apply to the competent Magistrate asking him to order that the discriminatory acts should cease.

The legal provisions available to the victims of racial or ethnic discrimination, in addition to the fundamental ones already contained in the immigration legislation, was further developed by means of the measures envisaged by **Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003**, which implemented Community Directive 2000/43, and which established the Italian National Office for the Fight against Discrimination (U.N.A.R.), whose activities had already been described to the Committee in the

previous Report, which however was drafted only a few months after the setting up of the Office, which has been operational since November 2004.

In its Second Opinion on Italy adopted on 24th February 2005, the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, expressed specific comments on our Country, in which critical aspects concerning the institutional and legal modifications concerning discrimination were highlighted.

In particular, the Advisory Committee refers to the present legal provisions governing immigration laid down in the above mentioned Legislative Decree No. 286/98 and subsequent modifications and it considers that, although these provisions forbids discrimination for racial, ethnic, national or religious reasons in various sectors, including employment, housing, education, training and social services, they only refer to discriminatory behaviours against aliens and immigrants and they exclude Italian citizens, including the members of minorities.

In this connection, it is to be pointed out that the Italian lawmakers explicitly considered this case in the provision contained in the third paragraph of article 43 of Legislative decree No. 286/98 which states precisely as follows: “The present article and article 44 also apply to xenophobic, racist or discriminatory acts carried out against Italian citizens, stateless persons and citizens of other Member States of the European Union present in Italy”.

This extensive protection is also envisaged by Legislative Decree No. 215/2003, whose article 3 concerning the scope of application lays down that “the principle of equal treatment is applied to all persons both in the public and in the private sectors.” On the basis of these provisions in its first four years of activity U.N.A.R. assisted and provided legal support to many Italian citizens discriminated against for their skin colour, religious faith and belonging to a specific ethnic group.

It is therefore possible to state that an Italian citizen present on the territory of the State and belonging to a national minority can take advantage of remedies envisaged by both civil and criminal law and put at the disposal of the victims of racial or ethnic discrimination by our legal system.

Actually, **Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999** envisages a specific **provision concerning criminal law protection of linguistic minorities** from these types of crimes.

Actually, through article 23 of Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2003, the above mentioned Law No. 482/99 was supplemented through the inclusion of art. 18 bis, whereby the provisions envisaged by art. 3 of Law No. 654 of 13 October 1975 with subsequent modifications and by Law-decree No. 122/1993, modified and turned into Law No. 205/1993, are also applied with a view to the prevention and repression of intolerance and violence towards members of linguistic minorities.

As regards the Italian lawmakers’ failure to envisage **a ban on indirect discrimination** – a situation that according to the Committee only favours aliens and immigrants and excludes Italian citizens, including the members of minorities, it is to be pointed out that article 2 of Legislative Decree No. 215/2003, fully complying with Community Directive No. 43/2000, states that indirect discrimination occurs

whenever “an apparently neutral provision, criterion, practice, act, pact or behaviour places the persons belonging to a certain race or having a certain ethnic origin in a particularly disadvantaged position in comparison with other persons”.

This objection can therefore be considered overcome by legislation in force.

The considerations of the Advisory Committee concerning the failure to introduce in the Italian legislation the principle of the shifting of the burden of proof in civil proceedings aimed at determining whether direct or indirect discrimination caused by race or ethnic origin exists are based on a similar objection addressed to Italy by the European Commission in connection with the Infringement Procedure No. 2005/2538.

More specifically, the Commission issued an opinion on 27th June 2007, in which it held that Italy failed to comply with the obligation to transpose correctly article 8, paragraphs 1 and 5 of Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29th June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin; this community provision envisages that in jurisdiction proceedings the plaintiff- the party that was allegedly discriminated against, has no burden to submit proofs of the facts underlying the action.

Article 4, paragraph 3 of legislative decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003 incorporated the above Directive, but the system of proofs it envisaged did not imply a full shifting of the burden of proof, but it rather laid down a sharing of the burden of proof which was more favourable for the plaintiff, who in any case must prove the facts underlying his application, even if only by demonstrating serious, precise and concordant facts or situations, which the judge will assess according to “his own prudent evaluation”.

To overcome the criticisms levelled by the European Commission in its reasoned opinion issued in the Infringement procedure No. 2005/2538, the Italian lawmakers introduced **Law-Decree No. 59 of 8th April 2008 subsequently modified and turned into Law No. 101 of 6th June 2008.**

Art. 8 – sexies of Law No. 101 replaced art. 4, paragraph 3 of Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003 with the following wording: “*When the plaintiff provides factual elements, including elements drawn from statistical data, that are capable of supporting in precise and concordant terms the alleged existence of discriminatory acts, pacts or behaviours, the respondent has the burden of proving that discrimination does not exist*”.

As regards the remarks concerning the “low practical implementation” of remedies against discrimination, it is to be pointed out that they must be examined in the light of the Committee’s Recommendation on the reinforcement of procedural guarantees and legal remedies.

In the first place it has to be said that as regards the jurisdictional protection of rights against discriminatory acts and behaviours, art. 4 of Legislative decree No. 215/2003 introduced a type of proceeding that is basically carried out in the form envisaged by article 44 of Legislative Decree No. 286/98, although significant elements were introduced including for example the possible compensation of pecuniary and non pecuniary damage; furthermore an aggravation of the

compensable damage is envisaged when the behaviour of the author of the discrimination consists in a retaliation for a previous attempt of the victim to resist a discriminatory behaviour. The civil action is extremely simple; the application, similar to the precautionary procedure envisaged by art. 700 of the Civil Procedure Code, can also be submitted by the victim himself and the judge is granted extended investigating powers.

The judge can act in the way he deems most appropriate to acquire the evidence he considers necessary; the procedure is characterised by a lack of formalities, i. e. It is the judge who takes decisions whenever necessary as to the timing and modalities of establishment of an effective judicial relation. From then on he can acquire summary information and issue his final decisions by means of a decree or of an order.

Despite its outstanding character, this type of action has been applied to a very limited extent. One of the reasons for the limited number of this type of cases being discussed before a court is the lacking awareness about right protection on the part of victims or of associations with a standing to litigate often arising from inadequate legal competence.

Hence it was deemed advisable to create close interconnections between victims and associations with a standing to litigate on the one hand and the world of the legal profession on the other, as the latter is willing to provide its own contribution on a non-profit basis towards the daily fight against all forms of discrimination. For this reason U.N.A.R. signed two Memoranda of Understanding with two well known professional associations – AIGA -Associazione Italiana Giovani Avvocati¹ and the non-profit social utility organisation Avvocati per Niente². Thanks to these memoranda, the persons who consider to be victims of racial discrimination or the associations that intend to start a litigation can refer to the above organisations, whose members offer their professional services on a non-profit basis.

Against this background in which the world of associations implement and develop their capacities, it is worth stressing that the project entitled *Contents and Instruments Aimed at Protection in Connection with Racial Discrimination* developed by UFTDU (Unione Forense per la Tutela dei Diritti dell’Uomo³) was financed. The main objective of the project is disseminating to the maximum possible extent the knowledge of national, community and international provisions aimed at countering discrimination based on racial or ethnic reasons as well as of the instruments to counter lack of compliance. To achieve this objective a one day seminar was held in Rome with the following title: “*Racial Discrimination and Access to Justice: The New Role of Associations*”, open to all associations active in the sector of the fight against discrimination and of the promotion of equal treatment, particularly those with a standing to litigate as envisaged by article 5 of Legislative Decree No. 215/2003.

¹ Italian Association of Young Lawyers

² Lawyers for Free

³ Lawyers’ Association for the Human Rights Protection

During the seminar the new legal instruments introduced by the recent national and European legislation against discrimination were examined in depth and a practical workshop was also carried out during which racial discrimination cases were simulated and the related countering strategies were described. Finally, in the 2007 Report to Parliament on the Effectiveness of Protection Instruments in Countering Racial Discrimination, U.N.A.R. submitted to the Italian lawmakers a few proposals aimed at the modification of legislation in force to make protection more effective and incisive.

Lastly, difficulties have been highlighted in connection with the failure to establish in Italy the Regional Observatories envisaged by article 44, paragraph 12 of Legislative Decree No. 286/98.

Although since 2004 the number of existing Observatories has steadily increased especially in central and northern regions, it is true that they have not been set up in all Italian Regions.

U.N.A.R. felt the need to establish closer connections with the territory to ensure the provision of support to victims of discrimination in the towns where they reside; in 2007 U.N.A.R. started a national monitoring of all existing Observatories as well as strengthening relations with its focal points in Turin, Milan, Padua, Varese, Venice, Treviso, Macerata, Modena, Forli-Cesena, Arezzo, Perugia, Rome, Naples, Foggia and Catania.

Thanks to the activities of the *focal points*, interventions at local level are possible, thereby providing immediate and direct support to the victim of discrimination in the place where the events took place. Bearing this in mind, a systematic mapping of all anti-discrimination Observatories and Immigration Observatories was undertaken. On the basis of the results of this survey, a plan for the establishment of a network of Anti-Discrimination Territorial Antennas was drafted; the objective of the plan is identifying discrimination events at local level and report them to U.N.A.R.. Within the network, U.N.A.R. will provide legal assistance, scientific support and statistical-analytical-interpretative processing of data upon request. Within the Information System of U.N.A.R. a digital platform and a Virtual Community to be shared with the Territorial Antennas were developed. Thus, it will be possible to rely on the same information platform, with standardized patterns of identification, aimed at monitoring in real time cases of discrimination at local and national level, making it possible for the various facilities to interact among themselves and with U.N.A.R.

The Advisory Committee included the problem of U.N.A.R. independence from government offices as well as that of the profile of registered associations with a standing to litigate on behalf of victims of racial discrimination in the outstanding issues concerning discrimination.

U.N.A.R. was established within the Department for Equal Opportunities of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in compliance with art. 7 of Legislative Decree No. 215/2003 transposing Directive 2000/43/EC. In the past this choice gave rise to concerns on the part of the European Commission in connection with the actual independence of the above U.N.A.R. Office.

First of all it is to be pointed out that Italy cleared up the point in a fully exhaustive way according to the Commission, which initiated infringement procedure No. 2005/2538 only on account of other aspects concerning a discrepancy between the Directive and the related transposing Legislative Decree - a discrepancy recently solved thanks to the adoption of the amendments contained in art. 8-sexies of Law No. 101 of 6th June 2008, which was mentioned above in connection with the principle of the shifting of the burden of proof.

Italy considered that from the viewpoint of functions U.N.A.R. is expected to carry out its activities in an autonomous and impartial way, thereby fully complying with the principle laid down by the directive, which states that the relevant activities must be characterised by “independence”. Therefore nothing prevents the Office from being established within the government structure, where in any case other bodies characterised by autonomy and independence are already active.

The lawmakers have further envisaged provisions to guarantee the independence of the Office’s functions and that refer to the financing, the tasks and the personnel.

In the first place a standing allocation of two million Euros is envisaged to finance the establishment, the functioning and the achievement of the objectives of the Office; the allocation is constant in time and does not depend on the national Financial Law passed every year to regulate public spending.

Secondly, the claim according to which the activity of the Office is subject to the control of the central Government cannot be shared in that the tasks of U.N.A.R. are strictly laid down by a primary source and they cannot be modified by secondary provisions; in any case no provision has been found that authorises the political Authority to interfere with the activity of the Office.

Finally, the independence of the Office is guaranteed by the of judges who are subject only to the laws as explicitly envisaged by the Constitution, as well as by the presence of administrative personnel recruited through a procedure based on a public competition.

With reference to the “undue restrictions of possibilities” identified by the Committee in the choice of granting standing to litigate on behalf of the victims of discrimination only to the associations listed in the relevant Register, the following is worth mentioning.

Important innovations were introduced in this area by article 5 of Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003, which granted standing to litigate “in the name, on behalf or in support” of the victim of racial or ethnic discrimination to associations or bodies representing the interests harmed by discrimination and included in an appropriate list envisaged by the above mentioned article 5; the associations and bodies are granted standing by the concerned person by means of a power of attorney issued in the compulsory form of a public deed or of a certified private deed to prevent nullity.

The inclusion in the above register, therefore, envisages that these bodies not only carry out support tasks in favour of the victim during litigation (so called *ad adiuvandum* intervention) but also and especially tasks implying full procedural

substitution (by means of power of attorney issued in the compulsory form of public deed or certified private deed to prevent nullity), which appears to be particularly appropriate to compensate for the manifest conditions of inferiority of the individual affected by unfavourable treatment or in any way mistreated, conditions which in practice prevents him from having access to jurisdictional protection.

According to the provisions contained in the last paragraph of article 5, the above associations have a standing to litigate also in cases of collective discrimination “when the persons affected by discrimination cannot be identified directly and immediately” thereby enabling to highlight the presence and relevance of “group” interests in non-discrimination.

In the light of the provisions contained in the first paragraph of article 5, the above list was adopted by means of an interministerial decree signed on 16th December 2005 by the Minister for Equal Opportunities and by the Minister of Labour and Social Policies and published in the Official Journal No. 9 of 12th January 2006.

According to the second paragraph of article 5, the list includes the associations and bodies previously included in the Register held at the Department for Equal Opportunities and envisaged by subsequent article 6 of Legislative Decree No. 215 of 9th July 2003; the list also includes the associations and bodies previously included in the Register established at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, governed by article 52, paragraph 1, letter a) of president’s of the Republic Decree No. 394 of 31st August 1999 (Register of Associations Favouring the Social Integration of Foreign Immigrants).

The inclusion in the above list is subject to the possession by each body of a compulsory set of requirements envisaged by the second paragraph of the above mentioned article 6:

- a. Existence of the association or body for at least one year, after the establishment by means of public deed or certified private deed;
- b. According to the statute the association or body concerned must have a democratic organisation, and its exclusive or main purpose must be the countering of manifestations of discrimination and the promotion of equal treatment, on a non-profit basis;
- c. A list of members must be kept and updated on a yearly basis; the list must indicate the sums paid directly to the association for the purposes envisaged by the statute;
- d. A yearly balance of revenues and expenditures must be drafted and books of account must be kept, in compliance with the provisions in force as regards the bookkeeping of non recognised associations;
- e. In the year preceding the inclusion in the list the association or body must have carried out a continuous activity;
- f. The representatives of the association or body must not have been sentenced to any final penalty in connection with the activity of the association itself, and neither must they qualify as entrepreneurs or administrators of production and

service enterprises established in whatever form and active in the same sectors in which the association or body is working

In its second Opinion on Italy, the Advisory Committee focussed its attention on the **social and legal situation of Roma populations** in our country, emphasising that at State level a Law aimed at the protection of these communities is missing.

In connection with the latter objection, during the parliamentary procedure for the adoption of Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999 entitled “Provisions for the Protection of Linguistic and Historical Minorities” provisions in favour of Roma and Sinti had been envisaged, which were subsequently withdrawn, in consideration of the fact that the members of these communities do not live in specific areas but are spread throughout the entire territory.

Territorial demarcation is the prerequisite for the granting of protection to linguistic minorities, as the right to the use of the language in the relations with the Public Administration, the right to the teaching of the minority language and the access to media, recognised by Law No. 482/1999, can be exercised only in a demarcated territory and upon request of the minorities themselves voiced by 1/3 of councillors or 15% of the local population.

During past parliamentary terms of office various bills were submitted by parliamentarians including specific provisions in favour of these communities; some of them considered the Roma issue in terms of legal, cultural and social protection while others aimed at the extension of protection provisions envisaged by Law No. 482/99; none of these proposals concluded its procedure owing to the extremely complicated nature of the issue.

From the legal point of view, three different situations exist: Italian citizens, Community citizens and Third Country citizens; these groups include individuals that regularly reside on the territory and individuals who do not possess a permit of stay.

The members of these groups who are also citizens of the European Union are fully entitled to the freedom of movement as envisaged by the provisions of 2004/738/EC Directive of 29th April 2004 and in compliance with Legislative Decree No. 30 of 6th February 2007; Third Country citizens, for their part, have to comply with the provisions governing the staying of aliens. Therefore, regularly staying foreign Roma benefit from the protective provisions envisaged in favour of immigrants by legislation in force, which is based on the principle of integration of foreign citizens in the social context. Aliens not complying with the provisions concerning entry and stay are anyway entitled to urgent medical assistance, including on a continuous basis, both in hospitals and as outpatients on account of illnesses and injuries; they are also entitled to education for their minor children.

In order to favour the integration of these communities, the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration has started a **national monitoring** with the co-operation of Prefectures to identify difficulties and possible solutions adopted in the areas of education, housing and employment.

According to the survey, many initiatives have been implemented in the territory by local authorities to favour the integration of the members of these communities.

In a number of provinces, municipalities have allocated houses owned by local authorities to Roma families.

Important interventions were carried out to renovate existing camps and creating new ones as well as to support projects of self-recovery and self-build of houses.

In this connection the experience of the municipality of Voghera is outstanding. In Voghera an equipped area for Sinti families with Italian citizenship has been set up, in the area each family is allocated the necessary space to locate its own home (prefabricated houses, caravans). Furthermore, a common space for cultural activities (homework assistance for children, literacy activities for adults), games and reading has been prepared in the framework of a project managed by a Social Utility Non-Profit private Association, with which the Municipality concluded a convention. The Municipality allocates a monthly shopping voucher, which varies according to the number of family members. A lump-sum is deducted from the amount of the voucher as monthly compensation of the camp expenses.

At local level, furthermore, many initiatives have been adopted to favour the educational inclusion of Roma children as well as professional training. To this end the following has been organised: shuttle service for Roma children attending primary and junior secondary schools as well as educational assistance provided by expert educators tasked with cultural mediation.

Projects including the allocation of “school grants” have been carried out aimed at the educational support of pupils of junior and senior secondary schools.

As regards employment in some cases forms of integration have been aimed at by involving cultural mediators and by carrying out projects on labour exchange and on training “stages” in enterprises aimed at inclusion in the labour force.

In a number of municipalities customised training “stages” have been organised by involving Roma or Sinti cultural mediators with the aim of preparing individuals to perform the following activities: accounting, video production, beauticians, cooks.

Other municipalities favoured the establishment of cooperatives run by Roma, including some dealing with separate waste collection as well as with the recovery of iron scrap and laundry services.

In 2007, the Ministry of the Interior-Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration allotted 200,000.00 Euros, funded through the assistance allocations in case of natural disasters, to the Milan municipality to accommodate 150 Roma persons who lost their accommodation owing to a fire; furthermore through **UNRRA funds** the above Ministry financed projects aimed at poor and socially weak persons. **Two projects specifically covered Roma.** The first project was entitled “Setting up of two special reception areas in favour of aliens without stable housing in a situation of great poverty”, it was funded with 94,330.30 Euros and it was to be implemented in Turin; the second project was entitled “Between camp and town – improvement of the quality of life and inclusion of the nomad community” and it was funded with 126,900.00 Euros in favour of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia.

In 2007, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies funded projects with 2,249,999.70 Euros belonging to the resources of the **Fund for the Social Inclusion of Immigrants** with the aim of favouring the **access to housing of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti**; the projects had been presented by the following municipalities:

Milan – “From Camps to Villages to Houses” 750,00.00 Euros

Turin – “Abit-Azioni” 750,000.00 Euros

Padua – “From nomad camps to towns” 749,999.70 Euros (a self-build project in which the Municipality provided the Roma community with the necessary ground and economic resources).

Furthermore, 1,000,000.00 Euros from the above Immigration Fund were used to ease the **inclusion in schools and the educational guidance** of pupils belonging to the Roma, Sinti and Travellers communities in the metropolitan areas of Rome, Bologna, Naples, Florence and Milan.

The activities that were promoted included assistance and reception interventions, including through the employment of cultural mediators to favour school inclusion and counter the dropping out from schools; interventions also included the involvement of Roma parents and families in the activities of schools and in school guidance activities of pupils.

By using the resources of the **Fund for Migratory Policies** related to the year 2007, managed by the above mentioned Ministry, programme agreements have been concluded with the municipalities of **Naples, Reggio Calabria and Rome** aiming at social inclusion interventions of Roma, particularly of Rumanian origin.

An overall sum amounting to 2,400,000 Euros has been allocated to these interventions.

The programmes addressed two categories of recipients – adults and minors and they included different typologies of activities depending on the needs.

As far as minors are concerned, the following activities have been organised: **school inclusion**, prevention of school drop out of Roma pupils and **support activities** to the establishment of recreational and sport centres and/or centre of aggregation between Italian and Roma minors.

As far as adults are concerned the following activities have been financed: **support to access to housing**, including through forms of self-recovery and self-build; **support to the access to public services**; **guidance to employment and courses of professional qualification and training** , e.g. courses for cultural mediators, and **support to the carrying out of the traditional occupations of these communities**.

In the framework of the **European Funds 2007/2013**, the above mentioned Ministry of Labour, in its capacity as Italian Managing Authority of the European Social Fund, established a national network for the social inclusion of Roma, which includes State Administrations, Regions, the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) as well as various Volunteers Associations representing Roma.

The **objective** of the network is collecting and comparing the experiences also acquired in other European countries as regards the **integration of Roma communities** to harmonise interventions and make the best possible use of resources.

Furthermore, in the framework of the **NOP Security 2007/2013**, the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration is carrying out various projects, including a project concerning the **organisation of training courses addressed to the social assistants of Prefectures**, Local Authorities and Associations (NGO's and Roma Cultural Mediators); the aim of the project is creating a network of relations among the Roma communities and the institutions for the strengthening of social cohesion.

A further initiative is being drawn up, directly addressed to Roma women, whose aim is improving the hygienical-sanitary conditions of camp residents and easing the access to the services provided by the National Health Service by means of activities including awareness raising and education to legality, including the respect for the environment.

At present the Department of Equal Opportunities is involved in the realisation of a 3 million Euro project (in connection with Axis D, specific objective 4.2, Action 6 of the NOP Governance) whose aim is the improvement of antidiscrimination policies. The objective of the action is eliminating discrimination and favouring a higher participation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers in the processes of economic and social development in the territories of the Regions of the Convergence Objective. This project envisages the realisation of a piece of research involving associations and involved Regions. In the first phase the work will imply a mapping of institutions, services and actions, whose results will be described during a seminar in 2010.

In order to identify an effective strategy of social inclusion, the Ministry of the Interior, together with the Ministry of Social Solidarity organised the **European Conference on the Roma Population**, which was held in Rome on 22nd and 23rd January 2008.

The Conference was organised shortly before the International Holocaust Remembrance Day to highlight the memory of the extermination of Roma during the Second World War ("Porrajmos"). The Conference was inaugurated by a photo exhibition devoted to this tragic event and by a lecture given by a Roma lady who survived the Porrajmos.

Participants in the event included authoritative representatives of European institutions and of EU Member States and representatives of both local authorities (Regional Governors, Mayors) and of Roma and Sinti communities.

The conference was a fruitful opportunity to discuss **best practices** implemented on the Italian territory.

Furthermore the round table provided an important contribution as various representatives of local authorities participated by giving an overview of the various local situations and by describing difficulties and initiatives that were undertaken. In the numerous debates, also representatives of the Roma and Sinti communities actively participated who are victims of prejudices and stereotypes.

On that occasion the attention was also focussed on the crucial role of the media.

Many members of the Roma community live in camps that are both authorised and unauthorised, where individuals belonging to other groups are also hosted.

In order to deal with a situation of social-environmental decay in some areas of the Country, particularly evident near the metropolitan areas of Rome, Naples and Milan. Relevant civil protection ordinances were issued on 30th May 2008 by the President of the Council of Ministers (Nos. 3676, 3677 and 3678) to tackle the state of emergency arising from the situation of the nomad community in the territory of the Regions Lazio, Lombardia and Campania.

The decision to make use of civil protection ordinances was based on the need to speed up the administrative procedures aimed at the setting up of new camps as well as at the recovery of existing ones; a further aim was a rapid use of the necessary financial resources.

The Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 28th May 2009 extended the state of emergency mentioned in the above ordinances in the regions Lazio, Lombardia and Campania until 31st December 2010; furthermore the above Decree envisaged the state of emergency also for the territories of the Regions Piedmont and Veneto. The Prefects of Turin and Venice were appointed emergency Commissioners by means of ordinances Nos. 3776 and 3777 of 1st June 2009.

In order to fulfil the need for more security in favour of the inhabitants of the above settlements and to bring about better living conditions, it was deemed necessary to have a clear picture of the number of persons living in the settlements, so a census was carried out which implied the identification of all persons who were present in the camps.

As regards the procedures that were followed, during the survey all measures aimed at ensuring the respect of fundamental freedoms and people's dignity have been adopted.

As such the census was carried out in cooperation with the Italian Red Cross and the identification of persons was done on a voluntary basis, excluding any information on religious or ethnic membership, in compliance with the **Guidelines of the Ministry of the Interior adopted on 17th July 2008** as well as with the relevant provisions issued by the competent Authority for the Protection of Personal Data.

The data that had been collected are not used to create *databases* or separate archives, but they are used for administrative purposes, in compliance with the Law on the Protection of Personal Data.

The European Commission, particularly Commissioner Barrot, relied on the above mentioned Guidelines to acknowledge that Italy fully complied with the community directives and held that the measures adopted are non discriminatory and therefore in keeping with the European legislation.

Furthermore, in order to define shared action lines aimed at overcoming the emergency involving nomads and as envisaged by the above mentioned ordinances of 30th May 2008, a **Technical Interdepartmental Group**, which also includes the Emergency Commissioners has been established within the Minister's of the Interior Departmental Staff Office .

On the 1st April 2009 the President of the Council of Ministers issued another ordinance (No. 3751), which authorised the emergency Commissioners to identify specific members of the personnel that are to carry out activities having extraordinary character to cope with the emergency as well as to rely on public actors for specific intervention sectors as well as on the technical offices of the relevant territorial authorities.

Furthermore, the ordinances envisaged streamlined procedures for the management and use of the allocated financial resources.

On the basis of the commitment of the Government, in 2008 funds amounting to 1,500,000 Euros have been assigned to the Emergency Commissioners for measures to be adopted, while for 2009 funds amounting to a total of 30 million of Euro have been allocated for the projects to be implemented in the territories covered in the above mentioned ordinances.

Positive results have already been achieved in the management of the emergency. Special mention is made here to the initiatives started in synergy with public institutions which are active on the territory as well as with the involvement of the communities themselves that offered their cooperation towards the action plan developed by the Commissioners; furthermore the arrangements developed at local level and the cooperation with UNICEF on minors protection are also worth mentioning.

In particular, it is worth mentioning that in February 2009 the “Rules and Regulations for the Management of Equipped Villages for Nomad Communities” were adopted by the Commissioners tasked with the Nomad Emergency in the Regions Lazio and Lombardia whereby school attendance by minors is a prerequisite for the residence of families in the camps.

In Rome a few authorised camps are being enlarged. In order to define the renovation interventions as rapidly as possible the responsible Commissioner appointed a temporary Director to the V Department for Social Policies and Health of Rome Municipality, following the ministerial ordinance of 1st April.

Furthermore a vaccination campaign for minors was started on 28th February 2009 in the Casilino 900 camp, which will then continue in the Martora and Salone settlements, with the collaboration of the Region Lazio, the Italian Red Cross, the Jewish Community and a number of facilities of the Children’s Hospital Bambino Gesù.

In Campania a project for a single model of camps has been drawn up in which lodgings meet standard criteria; the project will be used for the construction of Solidarity Villages in areas identified for this purpose. As regards hygienical-health initiatives, the Local Health Units (AA.SS.LL.) have continued their monitoring activity on compulsory vaccinations. In view of prevention about 300 nomads were also vaccinated against Type A hepatitis. Furthermore a Convention with the Undersecretary in charge of the waste emergency in Campania was signed; according to the Convention residents of nomad settlements are trained and paid for carrying out the separate waste collection using specific disposal platforms.

To ease the inclusion in the school classes for which compulsory attendance is envisaged an introductory plan was successfully drawn up and it was also accompanied by awareness raising activities. Thanks to initiatives that were carried out in collaboration with **UNICEF-Campania** it has been possible to find other vehicles to be used for school transport so that school attendance can be eased.

In **Lombardy**, too, **projects** aimed at **countering school drop-out and illiteracy** have been started in the educational sector, including by introducing after-school activities in camps with the support of Roma origin woman mediators. Furthermore, in view of a better integration of nomad pupils, the educational choice has been made to subdivide them in small groups in the classes of various schools.

In the Municipality of Milan, projects for the renovation of the most degraded settlements are under way as is the identification of new areas and buildings to be assigned to these communities.

Article 5

1. The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2. Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

The multiplicity of languages and cultures existing in Italy is a wealth that enriches our country. For this reason Italy protects and promotes the respective cultures of the linguistic minorities living on its territory and which are explicitly indicated by article 2 of Law No. 482/99, in compliance with art. 6 of the Constitution.

In the localities where national minorities live, many cultural initiatives are carried out, including some funded through Law No. 482/99 and Law No. 38/2001 and others funded with contributions of Regions and other local authorities.

The information provided by the concerned Municipalities, through Prefectures, during the present monitoring cycle are indicated in the attached forms subdivided by minority.

Special attention has been granted to meetings and folk festivals aimed at the studying of the respective languages and at the knowledge of ethnic minorities present in Europe; photo exhibitions have also been organised and equipped areas have been set up to promote the respective cultural and historical roots; literary cafes have been organised as were theatre shows and literary prizes for works in the minority languages; monograph studies, interactive CD ROM's and bilingual DVD's have been drawn up.

There are frequent cultural exchanges with the members of the minority living in the origin Country in the form of meetings with Embassies and Consulates as well as with the members of the minority living in the Municipalities of other Italian

Regions in the form of guided visits, study days and interlinking through the creation of integrated systems of cataloguing and fruition of book collections belonging to the community (e.g. Strategic Integrated Project BESA, Biblioteca Elettronica dei Siti Albanesi⁴) as well as through projects aimed at the safeguarding and development of the cultural heritage of the minority (e. g. “Brinjat”, carried out by the Municipality of Piana degli Albanesi also involving municipalities of the Besa Union, which includes five Arbëresh municipalities of the province of Palermo: Palazzo Adriano, Contessa Entellina, Mezzojuso, Santa Cristina and Gela).

Initiatives in the area of infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities include many activities concerning urban and rural toponymy such as the deployment of bilingual road signs, which at times update or supplement existing ones. Furthermore, *murals* containing cultural aspects of minorities have been realised.

Permanent exhibitions and Museums of Minority Traditions and Cultures have been set up where costumes, objects and ancient tools are on show with accompanying multilingual captions and descriptive tables. Civic libraries have also been set up to house collections of volumes concerning the history and traditions of the respective minorities. In some cases the structural interventions consisted in the creation of specific web sites of minorities and their updating or of dedicated areas within the Municipality.

Article 6

1. The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

2. The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

In our Country the various components encourage the spirit of tolerance through the adoption of measures aimed at promoting mutual respect and understanding as well as cooperation among all persons living on its territory regardless of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

This is born out by numerous laws issued in the sectors of education, culture and the media.

Thanks to the legislative autonomy granted by the Constitution, many Regions have issued laws aimed at the promotion and protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of minorities.

In this connection, the **Law of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia No. 26 of 16th November 2007 entitled “Regional Provisions for the Protection of the**

⁴ Electronic Library of Albanian Sites

Slovenian Linguistic Minority” is worth mentioning on account of its comprehensiveness and completeness of interventions.

This Law was issued to implement the principles enshrined in the main international Conventions (Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities) as well as to implement art. 6 of the Italian Constitution and the main relevant State Laws, particularly Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2001.

Article 4 of the regional Law is particularly relevant in connection with the encouragement of the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

On the basis of the above provision the Region promotes initiatives aimed at favouring cooperation, understanding and mutual knowledge between the Slovenian linguistic minority and the Italian speaking community as well as among the Slovenian, Friulian and German speaking minorities living on the regional territory and their institutions and finally among the associations that promote the knowledge and dissemination of minority languages.

The Region supports the realisation of common projects capable of enhancing cultural and linguistic diversities as well as of strengthening the concept of interculture.

As regards its scope of application, the regional Law considers the territory where the Slovenian minority is settled and indicates the areas identified in compliance with Law No. 38/2001 and it explicitly states that in that territory the regional provisions also refer to Resian and to the linguistic varieties of the Valleys of Natisone and Torre and of the Canale Valley.

In the light of the above provisions a few **considerations** of the **Joint Institutional Committee for the Slovenian Minority** concerning attempts at failing to recognise linguistic dialects typical of the Province of Udine can be considered overcome.

Particular importance is to be attached to the provisions concerning the institutional organisation laid down in chapter II, which envisage the setting up of the following bodies: a regional register of bodies and organisations that best represent the Slovenian minority, including in the trade union sector (articles 5, 6 and 7), a regional advisory Commission (art. 8) which issues opinions on subjects relevant to the minority and finally the Regional Conference for the Protection of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority (art. 10).

The laws issued by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia include **Regional Law No. 29 of 18th December 2007 entitled “Provisions for the Protection, Enhancement and Promotion of Friulian”**.

The above mentioned Law takes account of the principles and provisions envisaged in the previous regional Law No. 15 of 22nd March 1996 (Provisions for the Protection and Promotion of the Friulian Language and Culture and Establishment of the Service for Regional and Minority Languages); through this Law the Region promotes and supports public and private initiatives aimed at maintaining and increasing the use of Friulian in its territory.

Considerable attention is devoted to the activities of promotion and support aimed at the collaboration initiatives among the Friulian institutions and the institutions of the Ladin communities of Veneto and of Trentino/South Tyrol and those of the Romansh community of Graubünden of the Swiss Confederation particularly in the sectors of linguistics, education and training and the media.

It is further envisaged to develop the collaboration relations among the linguistic minorities speaking Slovenian, Friulian and German living on the regional territory as well as among their institutions to support common projects aimed at the enhancement of linguistic and cultural diversities.

A piece of novelty is provided by the promotion and support by the Region to the use of the official spelling of the different varieties of Friulian, including through the granting of funds.

There have also been important interventions in the sector of education-actually the learning and teaching of Friulian are part of a multilingual educational itinerary that in addition to Italian includes historical minority languages and foreign languages relying on the principle that this educational itinerary is an integral part in the training to become an active European citizen as well as in the enhancement of the specificity of the Region.

The Region, in collaboration with the school authorities and respecting their autonomy promotes the coordination among school institutions and favours the establishment of school networks, the identification of schools acting as focal points in the territory as well as training itineraries enabling participants to teach and use Friulian according to the provisions of art. 6 of Law No. 482/1999.

To ensure the coordination of the activities carried out by the various institutions, the Permanent Commission for the Teaching of Friulian was established within the relevant Central Directorate.

Furthermore information and awareness raising initiatives aimed at families are envisaged to disseminate the knowledge of objectives and characteristics of the introduction plan of Friulian into the educational system. There is considerable commitment on the part of the Region in the television sector as support is provided to the production and broadcasting of programmes in the different varieties of Friulian. The support provided is proportional to the territorial coverage and to the modalities of inclusion in the programme schedule.

The Region supports radio broadcasting companies that broadcast programmes in Friulian in relation to the percentage of programmes broadcasted in Friulian and to those produced by the companies themselves.

Within its responsibility concerning the issuing of qualifications, authorisations and concessions necessary to gain access to the sites envisaged by the state plan for the allocation of frequencies and the installation of networks and facilities for radio and television broadcasting, the Region lends support to radio and television broadcasting companies that use Friulian in at least 25% of its programme plan.

The legitimacy of this law was examined by the Constitutional Court which recently issued its judgment No. 159/2009 whereby the following items were

declared to be not complying with the Constitution: art. 6 par. 2; art. 8 par. 1 and 3; art. 9, par. 3; art. 11, par. 5; art. 12, par. 3; art. 14, par. 2 last sentence and par. 3.

In particular the lack of compliance refers to the right of using Friulian even outside the territory where the related public offices are located (art. 6, par. 2) without respecting the principle of territorial delimitation; the general obligation for regional offices to communicate also in Friulian with the general public, envisaged in art. 8 paragraphs 1 and 3 and finally the modalities of translation into Italian of contributions pronounced in Friulian by elected and joint bodies (art. 9, par. 3).

Another aspect that was judged not complying with the Constitution refers to the use of toponyms expressed only in Friulian (art. 11, par. 5).

The other criticisms refer to the right to the study of the minority language from three viewpoints:

- 1) The obligation for parents to submit an explicit request not to take advantage of teaching in Friulian (art. 12, par. 3), which clashes with art. 4 of Law No. 482/99, according to which upon pre-enrolment parents must inform the school authorities whether they want their children to be taught the minority language;
- 2) Scope of application of Friulian in schools through the guaranteed teaching of Friulian for at least an hour each week for all pupils without distinctions, within the flexibility quota allowed by school autonomy;
- 3) The didactic modality of the teaching of Friulian, by referring to the integrated vehicular learning.

The laws that were recently adopted include the **Law of the Autonomous Province of Trento No. 6 of 19th June 2008, entitled “Provisions for the Protection and Promotion of the Local Linguistic Minorities”**. This Law merely refers to the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations that live on the provincial territory and that are considered part of the undeniable heritage of the entire provincial community.

An important aspect of this Law is the content of art. 2 according to which the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations are Linguistic Groups as laid down in art. 2 of the Special Statute of Trentino-South Tyrol and its implementing provisions.

Another piece of novelty can be found in art. 5 whereby the Province promotes the collection of data on the size, the territorial settlement and the socio-linguistic situation of the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations on all its territory and in compliance with the state provisions concerning statistics, including with a view to evaluating and improving the effectiveness of the policies aimed at protecting, enhancing and developing these populations.

Through these two instruments the Province of Trento intended to balance the situation of these minorities and that of the German speaking group also present on the same territory.

An important element is the establishment of the Authority for the Linguistic Minorities which is fully autonomous and independent of regional and provincial bodies; the Authority carries out evaluation, supervision and inspection tasks on the adequate implementation of legislation concerning the protection and promotion of

linguistic minorities as well as on the final use of the resources allocated for these objectives.

The Authority also carries out an advisory activity including with a view to incorporating and implementing the international legislation concerning the protection of minorities; furthermore it carries out the function of ombudsman.

The Law No. 12 of 7th April 2009 of the Region Piedmont entitled “Promotion of the Cultural Traditions of the non-Autochthonous Historical Linguistic Minorities Living on the Regional Territory” contains elements of novelty.

The aim of this Law is promoting and implementing projects for the study of the languages and of the cultural traditions of the members of other linguistic minorities recognised by art. 2 of Law 482/99, that are constantly present on the regional territory.

To this end, in agreement with the Universities of Piedmont and with the Regional Education Office, the Region promotes training and updating activities, research work and studies on the linguistic heritage of the above mentioned minorities through the establishment of study grants.

Furthermore, in agreement with public and private broadcasting companies it supports the realisation of cultural and information programmes to guarantee the dissemination and the knowledge of the minority languages existing on the territory.

For financial year 2009, the Region allocated funds amounting to 200,000 Euros.

In connection with the second item of this article it is worth mentioning the importance of the activity undertaken by U.N.A.R., which is aimed at three fundamental objectives: the prevention of discrimination, its elimination and the promotion of targeted positive actions.

As far as the first objective is concerned, it was realised that only through a prevention activity, by means of targeted communication campaigns and awareness raising initiatives addressed to the public, a slow but far reaching cultural change can be brought about, a change that really takes account of the issues related to a multiethnic society. In this sector many initiatives have been undertaken and they addressed in particular education and sport. The school is of fundamental importance in the carrying out of anti-discrimination policies, as it is the main educational actor, after the family. As early as in the first phase of the life of the individual it is important that the idea of equality of treatment becomes an integral part of his/her educational and cultural heritage, even in consideration of the fact that at present the foreign pupils attending Italian schools amount to a good 500,000 and that their percentage incidence on the Italian school population is growing.

On the basis of these considerations U.N.A.R. has started a fruitful collaboration with the Ministry of Education aimed at stimulating the starting of an effective and balanced dialogue on the issues related to multiethnic integration, by means of competitions, debates and seminars. For example, the organisation of the competition *“A Comparison among Cultures in the World of School”* involving schools at all levels had a particular impact.

Universities were identified as privileged channels to favour a cultural process towards racial integration and capable of ensuring the maximum knowledge of the protection instruments against discrimination. In this connection it is worth mentioning not only the conferences and the seminars organised at national level by the main Italian universities, but also the notices for competitions for the awarding of prizes to postgraduate dissertations, organised in collaboration with CRUI – the Conference of the University Rectors of Italy.

Sports also carry out an active role in the promotion of multiethnicity, as they have always been characterised by a considerable social and ethnic mix. In this sector numerous initiatives have been promoted, including the awareness raising campaigns started with the collaboration of the main sport institutions and by the football and rugby teams during the matches of the respective championships.

Among the preventive initiatives, those organised for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is celebrated on the 21st March of each year, have particular impact.

For the third year running, also in 2008 U.N.A.R. organised the action week against racism from the 18th to 26th of March. It is an event with a vast echo among the public and the media thanks to a series of interventions aimed at raising the awareness of the public against racial discrimination organised in many Italian cities including events, seminars and shows in schools, universities and sports.

As regards the second objective concerning the repression of discriminatory behaviours, over the last few years the assistance and support provided by U.N.A.R. through its *Contact Centre* has become increasingly important.

The Contact Centre collects information, applications and evidence concerning facts, procedures and deeds that undermine the equal treatment among persons on the basis of the race, of the ethnic origin, of religion or culture; the centre also provides immediate assistance to the victims of discrimination by supplying them with information, guidance and psychological support.

The access to the *Contact Centre* can occur through the web or through the toll free line 800.90.10.10 from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 08:00 p.m.; the service is available in Italian, English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Rumanian, Albanian and Chinese.

In 2007, the Contact Centre received about 8,000 calls, including requests concerning general information on legislation on immigration, questions on anti-discrimination legislation and requests for support in connection with social integration needs.

This is a positive indication of the importance that the *Contact Centre* acquired both within the foreign communities and among the institutions active in the sector of immigration.

The requests for protection that are considered to belong directly to the responsibility of the Office include 440 cases of discrimination for which a preliminary investigation has been started; after a complete and careful examination in 265 cases U.N.A.R. actually found that racial or ethnic discrimination had really occurred.

As regards the spheres where discrimination occur, “work” and “house” at 23.8% and 16.2% respectively are the areas in which there is the highest number of cases of ethnic-racial discrimination.

As regards the operational procedures in practice, when the Office receives a report of an alleged discrimination, it initiates a proceeding, which may include several phases and which is aimed at providing the reporting individual with adequate protection.

In case an immediate reply is possible, the *Contact Centre* employee solves the case submitted by the customer in real time.

If the submitted problem cannot be solved, the case is referred to more specialised staff, who carry out careful enquiries and once they have ascertained the reliability of the report they study possible solutions to be offered to the victim.

When it is ascertained that discrimination actually occurred, the office offers practical support to the victim, to eliminate the negative repercussions.

In the first place, it is worth stressing the effectiveness of the *moral suasion* addressed to the authors of the discrimination. In this case, according to a simple but effective pattern, the Office interviews or summons both parties involved in the reported case. Many cases have been solved in this way, which proved to be an effective deterrent against those fearing the judicial proceeding.

Another solution for the definition of discrimination cases, without the involvement of the judicial system, is the informal conciliation of the parties, which is a more rapid and less demanding solution in comparison with a trial.

This type of solution of discrimination cases has also proved effective.

In case all available types of solutions have proved to be ineffective in overcoming the reported discrimination, the only form of protection for the victim is a judicial proceeding.

Particularly important is a further objective pursued by UNAR which is promoting specific actions and programmes aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination from the very outset. The need of this objective arose from practical verifications and from acquired experience.

Various cases of indirect discrimination, examined by the Office, such as those relating to the access to financial services, require considerable commitment and an action of suasion towards the discriminating institutions (e.g. the refusal on the part of banks or of financial companies to grant loans to non European citizens).

In these cases, the advisability to modify company policies by means of *systemic actions* is assessed on a case by case basis, in order to achieve important results in the promotion of the principle of the equality of treatment together with all involved actors.

To achieve this objective, the contribution of non governmental associations, institutions and organisations active in this sector is of paramount importance; the regular meetings with the associations have not only the aim of bringing out situations characterised by discrimination but also of verifying systematically the development and the achievement of objectives. In this area, the labour market and the school have to be considered priority sectors of intervention for the introduction

and the implementation of effective anti-discrimination policies. As regards the latter aspect, an awareness raising activity was carried out through training courses addressed both to workers and to enterprises in the sectors of the population more exposed to the risk of discrimination in the labour market.

On 18th October 2005, U.N.A.R. concluded an agreement with the most representative trade unions, including CGIL, CISL, UIL and UGL and the employers' organisations including Confindustria, Confartigianato and Confapi concerning a set of measures to counter racial discrimination in the workplace.

By means of this agreement, the social partners expressed their will to promote a better knowledge of legal and administrative instruments aimed at protection against all forms of racial or ethnic discrimination among their own representatives and the workers themselves as well as to enable a more effective intervention against discrimination in the workplace.

Therefore, various initiatives have been planned, starting with a pilot project to counter racial discrimination in the workplace to be extended at national level.

The project, whose experimental phase took place in the three Venetian Regions, is the first step of a global strategy to be extended to the whole Country.

The initiative is based on an important study financed by the Action Plan of the European Commission entitled *The Business Case for Diversity. Good Practices in the Workplace*, which dealt with *Diversity management* in the workplace, and which highlighted the advantages arising from these policies for workers.

Finally, it is worth stressing the importance of the so called *Job Meeting Project* through which a specific strategy has been started capable of going beyond the legal support to the victims of discrimination, by dealing with the structural causes of discrimination on the labour market. One of the main problems encountered by aliens who try to integrate in the workplace is the difficulty of getting access to the labour market through the procedures of personnel recruitment.

The idea is creating work opportunities for two categories of disadvantaged workers-individuals with disabilities and aliens by making it easier for enterprises and persons often discriminated against in the workplace to meet. In May 2008 U.N.A.R. organised a Job Meeting in collaboration with Sodalitas (CSR Development Centre) and a few Italian leading companies. The objective was organising an event capable of assisting in overcoming possible discriminatory attitudes, by providing work opportunities to disadvantaged persons through an appropriate selection procedure (more than 500 interviews were carried out) as well as by giving enterprises the opportunity of discovering "new talents".

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

In Italy the freedom of assembly, association, expression, thought, conscience and religion is recognised by articles 17-18-19-20 of the Constitution to all citizens, including the members of minorities.

These principles are also echoed by the regional statutes and by a few laws issued by regions where the minorities live.

For example article 13 of Regional Law No. 15 of 30th October 2003 entitled “Provisions for the Protection and the Enhancement of the Language and of the Cultural Heritage of Historical and Linguistic Minorities of Calabria” (Regional Official Journal No. 20 of 31st October 2003, extraordinary supplement No. 1) states as follows: *“The Region Calabria recognises cultural associations and the Albanian, Greek and Occitan local press and considers them an irreplaceable instrument for the protection, enhancement and promotion of the language and of the historical and cultural heritage”*.

Linguistic minorities, despite differences related to cultural traditions and socio economic conditions, share common problems connected to the need of obtaining a practical protection of their own language and culture at various levels, which preserves their identity and avoids the risk of assimilation.

A fundamental role from the point of view of a shared and effective protection of local linguistic minorities is carried out in a commendable way by the various associations that exist throughout the territory.

Minorities have relied considerably on associations and they created various organisations, including non governmental associations. Sometimes the pattern of “umbrella” organisations has been used in the cases of associations concerning various minorities, while specific associations have been created for individual minorities.

The organisations of minorities with a German background especially recognise the Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEV) with headquarters in Flensburg in Germany as “umbrella” organisation of autochthonous minorities.

The majority of minorities living in Italy are part of the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (EBLUL) which is represented in Italy by the Federal Committee of Linguistic Minorities of Italy (CONFEMILI).

CONFEMILI created solidarity among the various communities, by setting itself practical objectives especially in education and the mass media. CONFEMILI has been active for 24 years to promote and coordinate the initiatives of the associations of the linguistic minorities of Italy in view of their common interests.

CONFEMILI has about 80 partners- some of them are experts of issues relating to minorities (linguists, pedagogic experts, legal experts), but the majority of them represent associations, papers and cultural clubs of all the linguistic minorities of Italy.

On an international level it participates in the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages, whose aim is the protection and promotion of the autochthonous languages and civilisations of the European Union; it has advisory status with the Council of Europe and with the Economic and Social Committee of the United Nations (ECOSOC); for its activities it relies on two offices in Dublin and Bruxelles.

The President of CONFEMILI is member of the Bureau Council.

CONFEMILI carries out an important activity both at national and at international level.

At national level it carried out studies and addressed suggestions to Members of Parliament belonging to all political forces aiming at the adoption by the Italian Parliament of Law No. 482/99 entitled Provisions for the Protection of Historical and Linguistic Minorities and Law No. 38/2001 entitled Provisions for the Protection of Slovenians in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

It provided considerable collaboration for the adoption of Laws aiming at the protection of minority languages in a few Regions (Veneto, Basilicata, Friuli, Molise, Puglia, Calabria).

It provided advice to the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration for the publication of ten Reports on linguistic minorities in Italy.

A member of CONFEMILI participates in the capacity of expert in the National Council of Public Education, hence CONFEMILI collaborated in the issuing of two guiding opinions concerning the teaching of minority languages in schools: these are two useful instruments as they provide operational indications and suggestions to promote specific initiatives and interventions concerning teaching.

CONFEMILI represents the linguistic Minorities of Italy within the technical Committee established at the Ministry of Regional Affairs for the implementation of Law No. 482/99 and within the study group established at the Ministry of Education to support the projects drawn up by the schools of minority language speaking communities.

Furthermore the Council of Europe refers to CONFEMILI as regards the implementation of the Framework Convention for National Minorities and of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. In order to promote the ratification of the latter, in collaboration with the Chamber of Deputies, CONFEMILI organised a working seminar, which was held at the Chamber itself.

In collaboration with CEDE (European Centre of Education) of Frascati two seminars have been organised on the teaching of minority languages; the aim of the Seminars was drawing up instruments, such as programmes, textbooks and didactic material and teachers' training in order to implement practically the Law on the protection of minorities.

Conferences are regularly organised within the various communities with the aim of dealing with various issues; in particular those carried out in the Municipalities of Codroipo, San Pietro al Natisone and Rende focused on teaching.

A Conference entitled "Linguistic Minorities and Mass Media in Italy" was organised in Termoli in collaboration with Rai TV and with the Information Service of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; the meeting was an opportunity to focus the attention of the public on the importance of local cultures.

Following the numerous contacts with the responsible officials of Rai TV aimed at improving the supply of television programmes addressed to minority language speaking communities, a working seminar was organised in Bolzano from the 18th to 20th March 1999 to take stock of the situation of broadcasts in minority languages and to analyse the possibility for minority language speaking communities to gain access to television programmes from which they are still excluded.

Information seminars organised in various regions of Italy with the participation of CONFEMILI made it possible to verify the implementation of the Framework Convention and provided the Regional Offices responsible for the problems of the linguistic minorities with the opportunity of forming a network.

The collaboration with other bodies is also important.

In collaboration with the Institute of the Italian Encyclopedia, CONFEMILI was charged by the European Commission to draw up a synthesis of the situation of the regional languages and cultures within the European Union.

Together with an équipe of teachers of various European Universities, a number of partners of CONFEMILI prepared a study document entitled EUROMOSAIC, which is an in-depth analysis of the situation of minority languages in Europe and of their future.

Since 1985 CONFEMILI has utilised the funding granted each year by the Commission of the European Communities thereby favouring the exchange of cultural visits between representatives of minorities living in Italy and those of other minorities in Europe as well as making it possible to increase the knowledge of situations and experiences of the various minority groups.

As far as the financial aspect is concerned, the above mentioned Federal Committee is supported by funding of the Regions where the minority language speaking communities live and by fees paid by partners who in any case carry out their activities for free.

Within CONFEMILI the German speaking communities have created the Association of the Small German Speaking Islands that groups the associations of Cimbrians, Walser and Mocheno minority members.

The activities of the various associations are diversified and include various typologies of initiatives including exhibitions and visual arts, musical and theatrical activities, dancing and cinema, shows and festivals, events including cultural events that favour the promotion and enhancement of linguistic minorities and of the cooperation and collaboration, including at interregional and European level, among linguistic minorities through cultural exchanges and twinnings. Almost all the above mentioned associations publish bilingual reviews and have an Internet site.

A short description of the most representative associations is given below.

They are subdivided according to the linguistic group they belong to.

The **Arbëresh minority**, which is present in seven Italian regions (Abruzzo, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia and Sicily) has numerous associations.

They include, in particular, the cultural Association “*Arbitalia*” of San Demetrio Corone, which posts the edition of a paper on its web site for the on line dissemination of news concerning the Albanian minority.

The Association *Jemi* owns another web site that provides an exhaustive picture of the cultural, economic and social reality of the community.

In the Region Calabria two associations of the province of Cosenza are particularly active: the Association “*Bashkim Arbëresh*” of Spezzano Albanese and

“*Gennaro Placco*” of Civita that publishes the bilingual magazine *Katundi Yne*, both in the province of Cosenza; in the Region Molise the Association “*Kamastra*” is active in Montecilfone in the Province of Campobasso where it publishes a magazine with the same name; there is also the association “*Associazione Basilicata arbëreshe*” that publishes a magazine with the same name and organises cultural and musical events. Finally, in Sicily the “*Associazione Culturale Mondo Albanese*” exists.

As far as the **Occitans** are concerned, the majority of their associations are subdivided among three large Organisations:

CE.S.DO.ME.O – *Centre for Studies and Documentation of Oral Memory* – established in 2004 under the auspices of the Province of Turin, it includes the Mountain Communities of Alta Valle Susa and Bassa Valle Susa, the University of Turin and the Municipality of Giaglione; its aim is carrying out research activity and organising cultural events. The centre is made up by the *Institute of Occitan Studies* which owns hundreds of volumes, music collections and films on the language, the culture and traditions of the Occitan territory and by the *Museum Sòn de Lengua*, which is extremely technologically advanced and which displays an amusing “time machine”, which makes it possible to carry out a multimedia visit of Occitania, its history and cultural traditions.

The Association *Espaci Occitan* groups together the public entities of the Occitan territory. Its objectives include the linguistic, social and economic promotion of the Occitan speaking populations.

The Association *La Chambrà D’Òc* groups together farmers and craftsmen, persons involved in tourism who favour the linguistic and cultural revival of the Occitan valleys of Italy through their activities.

The Association EFFEPI is based on the need of creating an organisation that dealt with the Franco-provençal minority in Piedmont, in order to protect its linguistic and cultural heritage considering it an important instrument for the economic and social revival of the valleys.

The aim of the *Association Obra cultural algueres* is enhancing the linguistic peculiarity of the **Catalan community** of Alghero, through the organisation of language courses and the publication of books in the minority language.

It carries out a cultural promotion activity addressed to the local minority community in a context of social-political-economic programming, devoting special attention to Catalan speaking countries.

It publishes the magazine “*L’alguer*” and it launched the local *Catalan TV* television company that broadcasts in Catalan.

As regards the **Cimbrian minority**, which belongs to the German speaking group, the Cultural Association (Kulturverein) is present in Luserna in the Province of Trento, which lies at the centre of a lively tourist-cultural activity.

The following associations carry out their activities in Veneto under the aegis of CONFEMILI:

- The Association *Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese* that groups together the 13 Municipalities of the Province of Verona;
- The Cimbrian Association “*A. Del Pozzo*” of Roana, which also manages the Cultural Institute of the 7 Municipalities of the Asiago plateau (Vicenza).
- The Cultural Association *Cimbrians of Cansiglio* in the Province of Belluno.

For the **Croatian minority** the following associations exist: *Foundation Agostina Piccoli* of Montemitro, the Association “*Nas Zivod, Nas Grad*” in Acquaviva Collecroce and the Association “*Nas Jezik*” in San Felice del Molise. The bilingual periodical magazine *Kamasutra*, published in the Municipality of Montecilfone contains information on the Croatian and Albanian minority.

For the **Friulians** the following cultural associations exist: “*Don Eugenio Blanchini*”, “*la Grame*”, “*Colonos*”, “*El Tomât*”, “*Guido da Variano*”, “*Pionîrs*”, “*Rozajanski Dum*” and “*Glesie Furlane*”; the latter association is made up by a group of Friulian Catholics who want to reconcile harmoniously their religious faith with their cultural identity.

Other cultural institutions worth mentioning are the following: “*Istitût Ladin-Furlan Pre Checo Placerean*”, the institutes “*Achille Tellini*” and “*Pio Paschini*”, “*Società Filologica Friulana G.I. Ascoli*”, “*Union Scritôrs Furlans*”, the Association and editorial office “*La Patrie dal Friûl*” and finally the cooperative for linguistic services “*Societât Cooperative*”.

These associations provide all the activities concernine the training of teachers (The Filologica furlana is active in all sectors of culture since 1908).

In the main Italian cities and in a few foreign capitals the “*Fogolar Friulan*” (Friulian fireplaces) keep the language and the cultural traditions alive. Since 1951 these associations have been referring to and recognising the authority of the organisation “*Friuli nel mondo*” (Friuli in the World) which, through the homonymous monthly magazine, disseminates the activities of the Fogolârs, both nearby and far away, as well as providing financial support to them.

Many Friulian associations belong to CONFEMILI. They have also established an umbrella organisation named “*Comitato 482*”, which includes individual citizens belonging to the various linguistic communities of Friuli, as well as Friulian, Slovenian and German speaking associations that exist in the region.

The **Greek communities** living in Puglia and Calabria are also represented by various associations.

In Puglia, the Coordinating Body of the Associations of Grecia Salentina, in collaboration with the Associations of the Hellenic Republic, the local authorities and under the aegis of the Province of Lecce organises both cultural events (study conferences and seminars) and tourist events including fairs with typical products in Salento, particularly in the Municipalities of Grecia Salentina. These events are important to emphasise and revive relations across the Ionian sea between Salento and Hellas.

Among the Associations it is worth mentioning “*Grika milume!*” (Let’s speak Greek) of Martana in the Province of Lecce, which publishes the magazine *I Spitta*. The Associations involved in studies and dissemination through shows and festivals of Salento music are also important.

In November 2007, in Calabria a Coordination Centre of Greek Calabrians was established to create a synergy among the existing associations as well as to have a single voice for the world of the Greek speaking culture in Calabria to address Italian, Greek and European institutions.

For this reason the Associations *Cumelca, Odisseas, To Argalio and Astrid* submit common projects.

The Greek speaking community of Calabria also has a web site and a magazine *I Fonì Dikima*.

The **Ladins** live in a territory that has its natural centre in the massif of Sella: the Badia valley with Marebbe, the Gardena valley in the Province of Bolzano, the Fassa valley with Moena in the Province of Trento, Livinallongo del Col di Lana, Colle Santa Lucia and Cortina d’Ampezzo in the Province of Belluno.

The *Union Generela di Ladins* (UGL) is the most representative joint institution of the Ladin communities of the Dolomites in Fassa, Gardena, Badia, Fodom and Ampezzo.

The most important institutions provide active support: they collect a large number of institutions: the *Ladin Cultural Institute Majon of Fascegn* (Trento); *Istitut Pedagogich Ladin*; *Istitut Micurà de Rù*; *Intendënza ladina (P.A.BZ)*; *La Usc* (official Ladin newspaper); *Ert por i Ladins* (artists of the Badia valley); *Uniun Maestri ladins*; *Uniun Ladins Val Badia*; *Servisc Planificazion y Elaborazion dl Lingaz Ladin (S.P.E.L.L.)*.

These organisations regularly provide opportunities of encounter and creativity (exhibitions, competitions, shows, festivals, etc.) for the members of the minority.

As regards the **Slovenian minority**, the *Slovenian Cultural Economic Union (SKGZ)* and the *Confederation of Slovenian Organisations (SSO)* group together the majority of associations and organisations in the provinces of Gorizia, Trieste and Udine. Both have been recognised as representative organisations of the Slovenian National Community by the recent Law of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia No. 26 of 2007 entitled “Regional Provisions for the Protection of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority” (published in the Regional Official Journal of 21st November 2007).

The two confederations, which act as counterparts of the various European, national and local Institutions both in Italy and in Slovenia are part of the *Coordinating Body of the Slovenian Minorities (SLOMAK)*, which aims at establishing connections among the four Slovenian minorities existing in Europe (Slovenians of Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia) as well as at promoting the exchange of experiences and the development of minorities in the countries where they live.

In particular the Slovenian Cultural Economic Union (SKGZ) protects the rights and interests of the Slovenian National Community and of its members in all sectors of social activity.

The Union groups together, supports and harmonises the activities related to the association and organisation of member bodies and it promotes the values and principles of peaceful co-existence and mutual knowledge among neighbouring populations.

The SKGZ Union includes the following entities: the *Association for Art KONS*, the Slovenian Theatre Association (*Društvo slovensko gledališče*); the *Slovenian Musical Centre (Glasbena Matica)*; the *Farmers' Association (Kmečka zveza)*; the *House of the Culture of Gorizia (Kulturni dom Gorica)*; the *Cultural Club (Kulturno društvo) Ivan Trinko*; the *Slovenian Student House (Slovenski dijaški dom) "Simon Gregorčič"*; *Institute for Slovenian education (Zavod, za slovensko izobraževanje)*; *Association House of Slovenian Students (Združenje slovenski dijaški dom) "Srečko Kosovel"*; the *Union of Slovenian Sport Associations in Italy (Združenje slovenskih športnih društev v Italiji)*.

The *Slovenian Research Institute (Slovenski raziskovalni inštitut-SLORI)* as well as magazines and dailies such as the weekly *Novi Matajur* and the paper *Primorski Dnevnik* belong to the above mentioned Confederation.

The Confederation of Slovenian Organisations – SSO sets itself the objective at regional level of developing the Slovenian National Community in Italy as regards the aspects of social, political, sport-recreational, educational, religious, scientific, economic life, based on ideological pluralism, on democracy and pluralism.

The Confederation deals with the coordination and the promotion of activities of member organisations and it represents their common interests at various levels, in particular together with the *Cooperative Slovit* it publishes the homonymous monthly bulletin.

Part of this Confederation are mainly the *Community of families (Skupnost družin) Sončnica* and the *Foundation Fundacija Gorica* both with headquarters in Gorizia.

The majority of these associations have their headquarters in Trieste. The most representative are the following: *House of Culture (Dom) Jakob Ukmar*, the *Musical Institute (Glasbena Matica)*, the *Farmers' Association (Kmečka Zveza)*, the *Library (Knjižnica) Dušana Černeta*, the *pastoral Centre Marijanšče*, the *Union of Slovenian parish choirs (Zveza cerkvenih pevkish zborov)*, the *monthly magazine Mladika*.

The associations of the Slovenian National Community in Italy also take the form of cultural clubs, which are places devoted to the preservation of the Slovenian language and culture and which are an ideal venue to cultivate amateur's activities in the cultural sector among the Slovenians living in Italy in the Provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine.

These clubs belong to the *Union of Slovenian Cultural Clubs (Zveza slovenskih kulturnih društev)*, which is a no-profit organisation established in 1945 and grouping together at present 85 cultural clubs located in the provinces of Trieste, Gorizia and Udine.

Members carry out their activities on a voluntary basis to achieve common objectives. Theatre, dance and musical groups, as well as musical bands and choirs are also active within these circles. Cultural and educational activities, including concerts, courses, conferences, fairs, meeting of boy scouts, are organised.

In the Province of Gorizia, the Union of Slovenian Catholic Cultural Clubs groups together 12 active cultural clubs. The Union was established in 1959 to support social activities in the sectors of culture, recreation, education and information. It sets itself the aim of developing and preserving the Slovenian cultural heritage in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, particularly in the Province of Gorizia. The editorial office “*Slovit-Information Bulletin of Slovenians in Italy*” belongs to this Union.

The Slovenian Cultural Centre, established in 1948 as a section of the Slovenian Christian Social Union, is active in the territory of Trieste. This Confederation, which is made up by 25 amateur clubs and groups, is involved in the promotion of the Slovenian language and culture. In this connection it organises cultural events and theatre and literary activities.

There is a very large number of associations among the **German minority of South Tyrol**.

It will suffice to say that the site of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano alone contains 148 cultural associations active on the territory. They are in contact with other associations present in Italy and in neighbouring States with which they cooperate actively in many sectors.

* * *

The picture of **Roma associations** is extremely varied owing to the heterogeneity of the situation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers living in our country.

At present the various representative associations are not linked to each other through a so-called umbrella organisation functioning as reference body for national Institutions and for European bodies thereby enabling more synergy in actions.

Some of the main representative associations of these communities, namely *AIZO (Italian Association of Gypsies Today)*, *Opera Nomadi*, *OsserVazione*, *Rom Sinti and Politics* and *UNIRSI (National and International Union of Roma and Sinti of Italy)* are enrolled in the Register of Associations and Bodies active in the fight against discrimination, established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department of Rights and Equal Opportunities, which are entitled to act in proceedings in the name of, on behalf of or in support of victims of racial or ethnic discrimination.

Thanks to the existence of the Register a better operational liaison with the enrolled associations and bodies is possible so as to have always a clear picture of whom is really active in practice.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

The text of the Italian Constitution addresses religion and churches in a spirit of laicism and pluralism.

This position is enshrined in three constitutional principles that guarantee the individual's right to religious freedom (art. 19), the equality, including equal social status, of citizens regardless of their opinions concerning religion (art. 3) and finally freedom equality of all religions before the law (art. 8, par.1 indent i).

The system of guarantees of the rights of freedom is based on art. 19 of the Constitution, which also includes the liberty to profess freely one's own religious faith, by embracing an already existing religion, by changing one's own religious faith and by giving rise to new religious beliefs; article 19 also includes the liberty to carry out proselytism and propaganda, to profess one's own religious faith both in private and in public and finally to create associations of a religious nature or to participate in existing ones.

As regards the freedom of religion of minorities, the majority of members profess Catholicism, as these are communities that settled in ancient times. Few minority groups, such as the Arbëresh in Calabria and Sicily belong to the Eastern Orthodox Church while members of the Franco-Provençal minority belong to the Waldensian Church.

Generally the minority language is not used in liturgical celebrations.

A few minorities including the Arbëresh in Calabria and Sicily, the Catalans in Alghero, the Cimbrians, the French-speakers and the Franco-Provençals celebrate their religious rites in the respective minority languages on solemn festivities including Christmas, Easter and the Festivity of the Patron Saint.

In a number of minority groups the use of the minority language occurs in parts of the liturgy or for traditional prayers and songs, as is the case among the Arbëresh in Molise and the Greeks in Salento.

As regards the Slovenian minority, in some parishes all the parts of the liturgy are celebrated in the minority language, while in other parishes the minority language is used only for traditional songs and prayers.

In Friuli Venezia Giulia, on particularly solemn occasions, the liturgy is celebrated in the four languages spoken in the region: Italian, Friulian, Slovenian and German.

Article 9

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.

2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.

3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.

4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.

The right to the freedom of expression is based on art. 21 of the Constitution according to which all can freely express their own thoughts orally and in writing and through any other means of dissemination. The freedom of the press is also included in this context – the freedom of the press cannot be made dependent upon authorisations or censorship, with the exception of publications and other forms of expression that are contrary to public morality.

For this right to become operational for the members of minorities, it is necessary that they can receive and communicate information or ideas in the minority language through access to media including with the possibility of creating and using own media.

As regards the protection of linguistic minorities in this area, state provisions appear to be extremely varied as a number of minorities, e.g. those speaking French, German and Slovenian have been enjoying protection since long including through international agreements.

The so called Reform of RAI, Law No. 103 of 14th April 1975 on the public radio-television service, envisages the broadcasting of programmes in the above mentioned languages.

According to art. 19 of the above mentioned Law, the licensed company (RAI) must “broadcast radio and television programmes in German and Ladin for the Province of Bolzano, in French for the autonomous region Valle d’Aosta and in Slovenian for the autonomous region Friuli Venezia Giulia”. According to the same article, RAI must set up “broadcasting networks in the bilingual border areas and make them capable of rebroadcasting programmes of neighbouring foreign bodies”.

According to the subsequent art. 20, broadcasts in German for the Province of Bolzano are governed by an additional convention, while the broadcasts in Slovenian by Radio Trieste are organised according to the modalities envisaged by Law No. 308 of 11th April 1956.

In the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, RAI produces radio and television broadcasts in Slovenian, according to a three year Convention concluded with the Department of Publications of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (expiry date: 31st December 2009), whereby RAI is expected to broadcast 4,517 hours per year of news and radio programmes in Slovenian, an edition of television news a day and weekly television programmes for an overall yearly period of at least 208 hours.

Television broadcasting relies on the channel of the third network bis, which also supports the rebroadcasting of an edition of television news produced in Slovenian both by RTV Lubiana and by TV Capodistria. These broadcasts guarantee an extra 30 minutes of information in Slovenian every day.

On the basis of these provisions, at present RAI, the public licensed radio television company, provides radio and television weekly broadcasts in French, German, Slovenian and Ladin amounting to about 177 hours and 27 hours respectively.

Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999 implemented article 6 of the Italian Constitution, by introducing legal protection to languages not recognised until then, including Albanian, Catalan, Croatian, Franco-Provençal, Friulian, Greek, Occitan, Ladin and Sardinian; the entry into force of this Law gave rise to the problem of the recognition of the right to the use of these languages and to their promotion in the public radio-television service.

According to article 12 of Law No. 482, the Convention between the Ministry of Communication and the Public Licensed Broadcasting Company and the resulting contract must envisage conditions for the protection of linguistic minorities in the areas where they belong. To this end the concerned regions can conclude either relevant conventions with the Licensed Company in the context of the regional radio-television broadcasts in the protected languages or relevant agreements with private broadcasting companies.

The implementing regulation of the above mentioned Law adopted with President's of the Republic Decree No. 345 of 2nd May 2001 regulates the service contract with the Licensed Company for the Public Radio-Television Service and it envisages that as regards the minimum protection to be granted to each minority language of the European Charter of Regional or Minority languages, the Parties refer to one of the measures envisaged by article 11, paragraph 1, letter a which lays down three different levels of protection: (level a.i) creation of at least one radio station and one television channel in the regional or minority languages, (level a.ii); to encourage and/or facilitate the above activities; (level a.iii) to make adequate provision so that broadcasters offer programmes in the regional or minority languages.

The most recent reform of the radio and television system, which was introduced by means of **Law No. 112 of 3rd May 2004** (the so called Gasparri Law) lays down the underlying principles of the system which are based on the safeguarding of freedom in its various expressions and on the pluralism of communication means; these principles also include the protection of ethnic differences as well as of the cultural, artistic and environmental heritage at national and local level.

Legislative Decree No. 177 of 31st July 2005, entitled Consolidated Text on The Radio and Television System sets itself the aim of adjusting the entire radio and television system **to the introduction of the digital technology** and to the process of convergence between the radio and television system and the other sectors of mass communications, such as private telecommunications, the publishing sector, including electronic publishing, and Internet with its related applications.

Article 8 of the Consolidated Text lays down the general principles governing radio and television broadcasting at local level whereby Regions are granted one third

of the broadcasting capacity defined through the adoption of the allocation plan of frequencies for television broadcasting relying on earth frequencies.

In its second Opinion on Italy, the Advisory Committee recognised that RAI, the Public Licensed Company for the Radio and Television Service has been broadcasting for some time an appreciable number of radio and television programmes in French, German, Ladin and Slovenian, however the Committee stresses that very few programmes are broadcasted at regional level in the other minority languages protected by law No. 482/99 and it therefore considers that the existing differences in treatment should be eliminated.

According to the Advisory Committee, the responsible Authorities should also endeavour to find a technical solution to solve the difficulties of reception of programmes broadcasted in some of the areas where the concerned minorities are settled, as in the case of Ladins in Belluno and of Slovenians in Udine.

The Joint Committee for the Slovenian Minority, envisaged by Law No. 38/2001, agreed with the above position in its Considerations, and it further emphasised the need of a higher degree of commitment on the part of the responsible authorities to overcome this long standing problem.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning that the contract in force at present (concluded by the Ministry of Communications for the period 1st January 2007-31st December 2009) envisages for the first time the broadcasting of programmes in Slovenian also for the community living in the Province of Udine.

Furthermore, two conventions concluded between RAI and the Regions Friuli Venezia Giulia and Sardinia anticipated the service contract by making it possible to broadcast radio programmes in Friulian and Sardinian.

Incidentally, as far as Friulian is concerned it is possible to broadcast programmes on the radio network bis, which has been active in the Region for some time as a result of a pre-existing convention between RAI and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, while broadcasting in Sardinian required the reallocation of programming time within the national programme schedule of Rai RadioUno.

In its considerations, the then Ministry of Communications, now Ministry of Economic Development, stresses that the latter solution is not viable for linguistic communities settled on a small territory, given the excessive expenditure implied and that it is necessary to identify conventional solutions entailing the financing of new broadcasting channels, in order to fulfil the requirements envisaged by Law No. 482/99.

The needs of the Slovenian community of the province of Udine will be more easily met thanks to the forthcoming switching over of television broadcasts to the digital earth network.

In some instances, local entities have produced radio and television broadcasts with own resources. In the Province of Trento, according to a convention concluded by the provincial administration and RAI, programmes in the respective languages are also broadcasted in the localities where the Mocheno and Cimbrian minorities are present. In Calabria and Puglia, in the areas where the Arbëresh and the Griki live, programmes in the minority languages are provided thanks to the resources envisaged by Law No.

482/99, by relying on private channels and by distributing profits to partners; finally advertising contracts have been concluded with a revenue not exceeding 30% of the overall costs of the enterprise. In any case, public subsidies cannot exceed 50% of the costs implied.

According to a number of state laws subsidies are allocated to publishers and radio-television broadcasting companies for the publication of magazines and the broadcasting of programmes in minority languages.

According to article 3, paragraph 2 ter of Law No. 250 of 7th August 1990, modified by paragraph 717 of **Law No. 296 of 27th December 2006**, specific subsidies are allocated to daily papers published in French, Ladin, Slovenian and German in the autonomous regions Valle d'Aosta, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Trentino-South Tyrol.

To enjoy the subsidies, the statutes of the concerned publishers must envisage a ban on the sharing of profits among partners and the publishers' income arising from advertisements may not exceed 40% of the overall costs of the enterprise. In any case the subsidy may not exceed 50% of the above costs.

According to article 153 paragraph 2 of Law No. 388 of 23rd December 2000 (2001 Financial Law on Public Spending) the specific subsidies can be allocated to publishers of daily papers and magazines, including on-line papers, of papers of political movements representing recognised linguistic minorities, which must have at least one representative in one of the Italian Parliament's Chambers in the reference year.

The subsidy is calculated on the basis of circulation and costs and it can be as high as 70% of the costs included in the annual financial statement of the publisher (60% for on-line papers), which must be certified according to the law and referred to the paper title (Law No. 388 of 23rd December 2000).

One paper for each political movement only can receive the subsidy. If a paper receives the subsidy for its on-line version, it cannot apply again for the subsidy.

According to President's of the Republic Decree No. 460 of November 2001, the necessary prerequisites for the granting of the subsidy includes a certificate issued by either the President of the Chamber of Deputies or by the President of the Senate demonstrating that the concerned Parliamentarian belongs to a political group representing a linguistic minority recognised by article 2 of Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999.

A specific subsidy in favour of radio or television broadcasting companies that broadcast programmes in French, German, Ladin or Slovenian in Valle d'Aosta, Trentino-South Tyrol and Friuli- Venezia Giulia was introduced by the above mentioned Law No. 296/2006 (art. 1, paragraph 717).

The total sum of the subsidies amounts to 2,000,000 Euros each for 2007, 2008 and 2009 to be shared among the entitled entities.

According to **Law Decree No. 159 of 1st October 2007**, turned into **law No. 222 of 29th November 2007** art. 10 bis, which further modified Law No. 250/1990, the broadcasting companies that obtain the above subsidies are expected to broadcast programmes in the above languages for half of the time between 6:00 a.m and 10:00

p.m.; the programmes must be at least partly produced by the broadcasting companies themselves or by third parties on their behalf.

Article 10

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

3 The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

The right to the oral and written use of the protected language in the Offices of the Public Administrations is one of the main rights recognised to minorities by Law No. 482/98 (art. 9), which however envisages the exceptions of the Armed Forces and of Law Enforcement Agencies.

The use of the minority language is guaranteed in criminal proceedings in compliance with art. 109 of the Criminal Procedure Code and it is allowed in proceedings before the Justices of the Peace.

In the carrying out of their functions, the members of elected bodies (municipal, provincial and regional bodies and mountain communities) in the municipalities where minorities live can use the protected language, in compliance with art. 7 of Law No. 482/99.

In the above municipalities, the municipal council can publish the official deeds of the State, of the Region, of the Province and of local authorities in the protected language at its own expenses (art. 8 of the above Law).

A Fund to finance projects submitted by local authorities and local state administrations has been established at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers-Department of Regional Affairs to make the exercise of this right actually possible.

This funding enables Public Administrations to ensure that in the respective offices there is minority language speaking personnel able to communicate with the public, either by means of training courses for serving personnel or by employing outer personnel specifically skilled in the use of protected languages by means of temporary contracts for a maximum period of one year.

Law No. 245 of 24th December 2007 (Law on the Balance) allocated 5,817,465.00 Euros in 2008 to the funding of projects aimed at the use of minority languages in the Public Administration and submitted by local authorities (art. 15 of Law 482/99) through Regions, according to art. 8, paragraphs 3 and 5 of the implementing regulation laid down in the President's of the Republic Decree No. 345/2001.

Part of the above sum, 1,169,677.00 Euros, was directly allocated to the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, on the basis of Legislative Decree No. 223 of 12th September 2002 entitled “Implementation Provisions of the Special Statute of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia concerning the Transfer of Functions for the Protection of the Language and Culture of the Historical Linguistic Minorities in the Region”.

Following the entry into force of Legislative Decree No. 223/2002, the Region can make direct use of the funds envisaged by Law No. 482/99 for projects submitted by the local authorities of the regional territory.

A different system is applied to other Regions or local authorities, whose projects are examined by the Advisory Technical Committee for the Implementation of Law No. 482/99, established within the Department of Regional Affairs of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (art. 15 of Law No. 482). The projects of State Administrations are also financed on the basis of Law No. 482/99 (art. 9).

An example of the application of this article is provided by the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers of 6th March 2008 (published in the Official Journal No. 137 of 13th June 2008), whereby 28,920.00 Euros were allocated to the Ministry of the Interior – Prefecture of Trieste, which submitted a project for 2007 aimed at the setting up of a translation service from Italian into Slovenian and vice versa as well as for training courses in Slovenian, according to the provisions of the implementing regulation of Law No. 482/99.

As regards the use of the language by the members of the **Slovenian minority**, in December 2007 the **Single State Helpdesk for Slovenian** was set up at the headquarters of the Government Commissioner’s Office-Prefecture of Trieste, in compliance with article 8 paragraph 4 of law No. 38/2001 which enables Public Administrations to run jointly a single office addressed to Slovenian citizens.

This Office, tasked with a linguistic mediation service in favour of citizens belonging to the above minority, was joined by local state administrations present in the province (Provincial Police Headquarters, Regional Revenue Office, Regional Education Office, Regional Customs Agency, as well as the social security Institutes INPS, INAIL and INPDAP) that signed a memorandum of understanding drawn up by the Prefect of Trieste – Government’s Commissioner in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia.

The aim of the Helpdesk is becoming an Office to refer to for issues concerning the entire state sector and the service it carries out is available to Slovenian speaking Italian citizens who wish to use their own language in their relations with the Administrations that signed the memorandum and who need information, translations and to submit applications. More specifically, the above office can be requested to provide information concerning the following: administrative procedures and files under the responsibility of the Prefecture and the Provincial Police Headquarters; public state schools with Slovenian as teaching language, everything that concerns taxes and duties (income declarations; tax assessment forms) as well as information concerning services provided by INPS, INPDAP and INAIL.

Furthermore the necessary agreements were concluded between the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Local Authorities aimed at the establishment of a Central Office in the Municipalities of Gorizia and Cividale del Friuli.

Furthermore, the problem concerning the issuing of bilingual identity cards in the municipalities of Sgonico, Monrupino, San Dorligo della Valle and Duino Aurisina according to the provisions laid down in the London Memorandum has been overcome following the entry into force of the above mentioned President's of the Republic Decree of 12th September 2007 concerning the delimitation of the protected territory, whereby the provisions of art. 8, paragraph 3 of Law No. 38/2001 became operational, which envisage that bilingual identity cards are issued to applying citizens throughout the territory where the minority settled.

Thus, a uniform treatment has been established throughout the territory where the minority settled, although the provision arising from the implementation of the London Memorandum has not formally ceased.

As regards the implementation of Law No. 38/2001, laying down financial contributions for the institutions and the activities of the Slovenian minority, the Joint Institutional Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority highlights that there has been a reduction of resources allocated to the cultural activities of the Slovenian community in the 2009 Financial Law on Public Spending adopted by the Italian Parliament: these cuts were confirmed in the three year budget for the period 2010-2011.

Law No. 203 of 22nd December 2008 entitled "Provisions concerning the Yearly and Multiannual Balance of the State" (so called Financial Law of 2009) allocates 4,130,000 Euros to the funding of Law No. 38/2001 for 2009, 4,060,000 Euros for 2010 and 3,120,000 Euros for 2011.

As the Committed itself pointed out, the Government re-allocated 1 million Euros for 2008 by means of Law Decree No. 207 of 30th December 2008 and turned into law by means of Law No. 14 of 27th February 2009; it did so to ensure that the guarantees envisaged by Law No. 38/2001 in favour of the Slovenian minority are maintained.

Article 11

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

2 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

3 In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

As far as paragraph 1 of this article is concerned, it is worth mentioning that art. 11 of Law No. 482/1999 lays down that citizens belonging to a recognised linguistic minority, whose names and surnames had been modified before the entry into force of the above mentioned Law, may obtain that their original names and surnames are restored by means of a merely administrative procedure free of costs.

Art. 7 of Law No. 38/2001 lays down that the members of the Slovenian minority are entitled to obtain that their names and surnames are written or printed according to the correct Slovenian spelling in all public deeds as well as to obtain that their surnames written in Italian are changed into the corresponding names in Slovenian or into the Slovenian names that are normally used in their social relations.

In its opinion, the Joint Committee for the Slovenian Minority points out that this provision has not been fully implemented particularly as far as the correct spelling of names of members of the Slovenian minority in official documents is concerned.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that on 2nd February 2009 the **Ministry for Public Administration and Innovation issued a relevant decree laying down the adoption of the technical rules governing the diacritical marks** belonging to the Latin alphabet and used in the names and surnames of Italian citizens.

The aim of the decree is ensuring that individual State Administrations use a single system to write these marks replacing the specific transcription tables which were used in the past.

Thanks to the adoption of this decree the interaction among the various administrations managing the registers of the Italian population will be streamlined, thereby overcoming the technical problems that may hinder the full implementation of provisions concerning the minority members' right to the correct spelling of their names.

As regards paragraphs 2 and 3 of art. 11, concerning the minority members' right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public as well as traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public (also in the minority language), it is worth mentioning that a part of the resources envisaged by Law No. 482/99 and by Law No. 38/2001 are also intended for projects concerning the setting up or renewal of tourist signs and road signs bearing toponyms submitted by individual municipalities.

As regards the Slovenian minority, the issue is governed by art. 10 of Law No. 38/2001, according to which the President of the Regional Government must produce a relevant decree, upon proposal of the Joint Institutional Committee and after the acquisition of the opinion of the involved authorities; the decree identifies the municipalities, parts of municipalities, localities and entities where Slovenian is used in addition to Italian in the signs of public offices, in the letterhead of official stationery and in all toponyms and road signs.

The decree was issued on 18th December 2008. It incorporates a number of considerations made by the Joint Institutional Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority concerning the possible use of local varieties of Slovenian and the

autonomous decision of assemblies on the use of Slovenian beside Italian in gonfalons. Furthermore, “*it is deemed advisable that the envisaged implementation of art. 10 is respectful of the various attitudes existing in the territory*”; as a result the list contained in the decree includes the municipality of Tarvisio on condition that the other linguistic groups that are present (Italian and German) are ensured an equal treatment.

The decree, subsequently supplemented on 31st December 2008 with the inclusion of the Province of Trieste and the Municipality of Ronchi dei Legionari, fully implements the provision of art. 10 of Law No. 38/2001.

Article 12

1 The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.

2 In this context the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.

3 The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.

Specific provisions governing the education sector are contained in Law No. 482/99 and in Law No. 38/2001. These pieces of legislation provided important opportunities for the enhancement and the revival of the linguistic heritage of minority language Communities existing on the Italian territory.

Law No. 482/99 envisages a two tier intervention system: that of the Ministry of Education and that of the individual school institutions.

According to article 5 the Ministry of Education issues decrees whereby it indicates the general criteria for the implementation of measures necessary to the teaching of the minority language; furthermore it promotes and implements local and national projects concerning the study of languages and cultural traditions belonging to the members of recognised minorities.

In this connection the plan of financial interventions envisaged by the Law was practically implemented and schools were given operational indications and priority criteria for the drawing up of projects that can be summarised under 5 items:

- Setting up of networks among schools;
- Interaction between the relevant project and the territory;
- Teaching of/in the minority language;
- Inclusion of the relevant initiative in the school’s plan of the educational offer;
- In-service training of trainers.

According to the training objectives that were laid down the following skills had to be achieved:

- a) Mastering of the minority language and related grammar knowledge;
- b) Historical-cultural knowledge related to the minority community.

The examination of the projects that were financed in the course of the last 2 school-years, indicates that **all linguistic minorities were able to take advantage of the opportunities offered by legislation in the education sector.**

Law No. 482/1999 has been implemented for ten years now and the resulting experience indicates that many projects submitted by the schools are multiannual by character and they have become a steady feature in the drawing up of the schools' plans of the educational offer.

Thus the learning of the minority language has passed from a phase of spontaneous acquisition to a more advanced phase, characterised by systematic study, including also by means of innovative, non conventional activities.

As regards the need of identifying common teaching objectives for all schools, the Ministry of Education issued circular letter No. 64 of 23rd July 2008, whereby it provided primary schools and junior secondary schools with common indications for the teaching of minority languages with particular reference to the use of the method known as *Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL)* or as second language.

The above mentioned objectives aim at easing the acquisition of the communication skill and of the ability to understand and reproduce structures to be applied to real situations; further aims are the enlargement of vocabulary and the production of short written texts.

As a consequence of the identification of the common objectives for primary and junior secondary schools the use of minority languages is considered instrumental to achieve intercultural exchange as well as the development of the basic skills necessary for oral and written communication.

In the above mentioned 2008 circular letter the priority criteria to be evaluated in examining projects included the **training of teachers** and the drawing up of transferable teaching material.

As regards the training of teachers, many **projects involving networks of schools** have been started- they make it possible to share the costs of the teachers' training by concluding conventions with Universities and accredited training bodies.

The special importance that Italy attaches to training is born out by the fact that a working group was re-established at the Ministry of Education. The working group is charged with the drawing up of intervention criteria and priorities aimed at the implementation of measures envisaged by article 4 of Law No. 482/1999 and related to the funding plan laid down in art. 5; it is made up by experts representing various sectors – in addition to Regional Offices' of Education representatives, expert in the languages spoken in the respective territories, there are representatives of the Ministry of Education Directorate of School Personnel, responsible for the training of teachers, of Universities, of the Agency for the Evaluation of the School System and of the Agency for the Development of School Autonomy.

The synergy among these professional experts is expected to ensure that the culture of linguistic minorities is more integrated in the educational context.

The measures adopted by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in the area of teachers' training are particularly meaningful. The following are worth mentioning:

- In October 2005 establishment of an inter-institutional coordination Table involving the Region, the Provinces and the Friuli University Union and establishment of a *regional coordination technical group*;

- Starting of the Project S.P.S. for the study of the professional profile of teachers with special emphasis on knowledge in the area of minority languages and multilingualism, through research and testing;
- Participation of the Regional Office of Education of Friuli Venezia Giulia in a European Comenius 2.1 Research Project entitled “INFO – Identification of Quality Elements in the Training of Teachers of Minority Languages in Multilingual Areas”, including specific research actions and testing of a training course for teachers of minority languages, that meet the educational requirements of concerned areas;
- Promotion and carrying out of training addressed to teachers of primary, junior secondary and senior secondary schools of the Region through the establishment of provincial networks of schools directly coordinated by the Regional Office of Education of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

According to many experiences in Italy and also in other European countries, the active involvement of teachers in the teaching of minority languages is a fundamental element in the effective learning of the minority language itself.

Article 13

1 Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.

2 The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.

The national education system does not prevent the members of linguistic minorities from setting up and managing their own private educational institutes.

Private schools include the private kindergarten and primary school with Italian-Slovenian bilingual teaching run by the Education Institute of San Pietro al Natisone in the Province of Udine, which following the entry into force of Law No. 38/2001 have been recognised as state schools.

In this connection, it is worth mentioning that the statalisation procedure of the above mentioned Institute has been completed and that it now also provides junior secondary education.

Article 14

1 The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.

2 In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.

3 Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.

In our country, the right to the learning of the respective minority language is recognised to all members of linguistic minorities recognised by legislation in force.

In this connection, article 4 of Law No. 482/99 is of paramount importance, as it envisages that in addition to the use of Italian, the minority language is also used in educational activities in the kindergartens of municipalities where minority groups exist, while in primary schools and in junior secondary schools the use of the minority language as teaching aid is also envisaged.

In order to ensure the learning of the minority language and in the light of organisational and teaching autonomy, school institutions lay down the teaching modalities of the local language and traditions, also taking account of the requests made by the pupils' parents who upon pre-registration declare whether they want their children to be taught the minority language.

In its Second Opinion, the Advisory Committee was concerned that clashing interpretations of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the above art. 4 that is the teaching of the minority language is compulsory or not thereby hindering the development of initiatives in this sector.

In this connection it is to be pointed out that the Working Group for Minorities has been re-established at the Ministry of Education with the aim of giving priority to the school institutions that intend to pursue the didactic organisation of the teaching of the minority language, in the framework of the respective autonomy, thereby enabling each minority to express itself as well as ensuring common didactic objectives.

This initiative was successful as shown by the data collected in January 2008, which indicate that in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia 29,537 pupils applied for the teaching of the minority language; the overall figure is broken down as follows: 25,471 in the Province of Udine, 1,256 in the Province of Gorizia and 2,819 in the Province of Pordenone.

As a result, the implementation of Law No. 482/1999 in the schools of the Region has developed positively and constantly in school year 2008-2009, both in connection with families' applications and with the degree of autonomy shown by schools which gave rise to projects in Friulian.

This is also the result of funding originating from other sources (Region, Provinces, Municipalities and private actors) as well as of the training of teachers carried out by the University of Udine and by private associations with expertise in this sector.

The above mentioned Committee has also given a favourable opinion on the measures envisaged by Law No. 482/99 aimed at promoting the study of languages and of cultural traditions of historical linguistic minorities; furthermore it recognised the effectiveness of projects aimed at kindergartens, primary schools and junior secondary schools and it expressed the hope that this activity is continued and stepped up.

Building on previous programming, carried out in this sensitive sector, School Authorities made use of the resources allocated by Law No. 482/99 and over the last three years they carried out various projects aimed at supporting schools where these situations exist.

Unfortunately however it appears impossible to comply with the request drafted by the Committee concerning the introduction of more flexibility in the financial procedures relating to the crediting of the funds envisaged by Law No. 482/1999, in the light of the procedural strictness of the Italian budgeting system aimed at ensuring the maximum possible transparency of behaviours, and the compliance with the sharing of competences and of control procedures.

Furthermore, owing to a general policy aimed at limiting public spending, ensuring a funding increase has been impossible in the present financial year. In any case, it must be borne in mind that in Regions including Friuli Venezia Giulia, Sardinia and Trentino Alto Adige particular ad hoc legislation systems exist which considerably supplement central funding in favour of linguistic minorities to support comprehensive promotion of the languages and cultures of minorities.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that as regards the right to the teaching of minority languages the Italian legislation envisages various instruments connected to the varying degree of autonomy granted by the legal system to the various territorial entities.

The school system in the Autonomous Province of Bolzano is so specific that it cannot be compared with any other, not only in Italy but, even in Europe.

In a territory with 450,000 inhabitants the Province relies on three school systems that are separated and autonomous both in a linguistic-cultural perspective and from the administrative-managerial viewpoint.

In kindergarten and in primary and secondary schools teaching is carried out in the Italian or German mother tongue of the pupils by teachers with the same mother tongue.

In primary schools the teaching of the second language is compulsory and it is carried out by mother tongue teachers.

As regards the teaching of the second language, article 19 of the Special Autonomy Statute of South Tyrol envisages that “it is compulsory starting from the second or third class of primary school, according to what has been laid down following the relevant provincial Law, upon binding proposal of the concerned linguistic group”.

The above article was turned into a set of implementing provisions including various laws and other measures issued by the Province of Bolzano that exercises its powers both at primary and at secondary legislation level.

The primary competences of the Province, in which it is only limited by the obligation to comply with the Constitution, with Community legislation and international obligations include kindergartens, **vocational** schools, school buildings and assistance in school **related areas**, including pupils’ transport, free supply of textbooks and grants.

Secondary competences, whose exercise requires compliance with the fundamental principles contained in State legislation, includes the system of provisions governing primary and secondary schools. In this area, therefore general school reforms implemented at national level must be complied with and school

curricula in force must be complied with, subject to the option of adjusting them to local needs.

One fundamental aspect of autonomy in the school sector is the establishment of three autonomous school Superintendencies, each administering the schools of the respective linguistic group (Provincial Law No. 22 of 29th April 1975).

According to this system a School Superintendent is appointed by the Ministry of Education, that takes into account the opinion of the Provincial Government of Bolzano; the School Superintendent is charged with the administration of the Italian Schools and with the supervision of the German and Ladin Schools.

For each Superintendency an Institute for Pedagogic and Didactic Research has also been established.

In the Province of Bolzano there are 246 German language kindergartens with 493 sections, 55 Italian language kindergartens with 148 sections and 16 Ladin language kindergartens with 30 sections. The staff of kindergartens is employed by the Province.

In order to ensure that young people are adequately supported in the choice of their career, the three linguistic groups can each rely on their respective service of professional guidance, which has been regulated from scratch by provincial Law No. 15 of 4th May 1988.

The collective bodies responsible for the governing of schools, comply with the general principles laid down in the national provisions, however in order to meet local needs their make-up takes account of the presence of second language teachers and of personnel employed by the Province.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that the German schools in Bolzano, the Slovenian schools as well as the schools in the Aosta Valley appoint their own representatives at the National Council of Public Education, which is the body representing all constituents of the education sector.

In the Province of Bolzano a school system for the Ladin minority also exists.

The Ladin population is subdivided in three different Provinces: Bolzano, Trento and Belluno, for this reason the teaching of the language is affected not only by the differing level of autonomy granted to the individual Provinces, but also by the historical relations existing with the Italian and German groups respectively.

According to the provisions of the Autonomy Statute, in the German and Italian schools the didactic organisation is centred on the respective mother tongue, on the contrary in the Ladin valleys a specific model was adopted for historical, cultural and social reasons, which had to be capable of reconciling the need of preserving and promoting Ladin with the need of learning Italian and German on an equal footing.

As a result Ladin is used in kindergartens, while in the other schools teaching is carried out “on an equal footing”, i. e. with the same number of hours in Italian and in German. In junior secondary schools the “equal footing” principle is implemented differently, that is to say by teaching half of the subjects in Italian and half in German.

Ladin is generally used as third language and since 1988 it has been used to teach geography in junior secondary schools.

In the province of Trento, Ladins have a bilingual school system. In the framework of the provincial educational system, the Province protects and promotes the language and culture not only of the Ladin population but also of the Mócheno-Cimbrian populations that are also settled in its territory.

To this end the teaching of the culture of these groups is guaranteed as is the teaching of the Ladin and Mócheno-Cimbrian languages, including from the vehicular viewpoint; furthermore particular organisational measures are envisaged by Provincial Law No. 4 of 30th August 1999 laying down “Provisions for the Protection of Minority Language Populations in the Province of Trento” which, as regards the Mócheno and Cimbrian minorities also envisages the possibility to use German as well.

Furthermore the Province of Trento issued additional provisions by means of Law No. 5 of 7th August 2006 entitled “Educational System in the Teaching and Training Sector in Trentino” as well as of Law No. 6 of 19th June 2008 entitled “Provisions Aimed at the Protection and Promotion of Local Linguistic Minorities”.

In the Aosta Valley the Statute lays down a bilingual educational system whereby all types of schools at all levels depending on the Region allocate an equal number of teaching hours to French and Italian.

In Friuli Venezia Giulia, Slovenians are entitled to have their own schools as envisaged by articles 12-14 of Law No. 38/2001.

By means of a decree issued by the Director General of Friuli Venezia Giulia on 29th October 2002, the Regional Office of Education established the Office for Teaching in Slovenian (Office IV), charged with the legal and administrative management of staff of state schools with Slovenian as teaching language in the provinces of Trieste (five didactic Directorates, five junior secondary schools, four senior secondary schools) and Gorizia (one didactic Directorate, one comprehensive Institute, one junior secondary school and two senior secondary schools); furthermore the above Office, in collaboration with the Provincial Office of Udine, is charged with the above mentioned management of the staff of of the Comprehensive Institute with bilingual Italian-Slovenian teaching of San Pietro al Natisone (UD).

In particular, the Office deals with schools, staff and management activities falling outside the responsibility of autonomous institutions, training and updating of staff, drafting, translation and printing of textbooks, state examinations and issues concerning the young. Finally, the above mentioned Office acts as Secretariat of the Regional Educational Committee for Teaching in Slovenian, established in compliance with art. 13, paragraph 4 of the above mentioned Law No. 38/2001.

In the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia a number of initiatives have been undertaken to implement the principles enshrined in Law No. 482 of 1999 and especially in Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2001.

In order to implement the Memorandum of Understanding between the Italian Republic and the Republic of Slovenia concerning education, signed on 25th May 1995 in Ljubljana, an important collaboration has been started aimed at initiatives in

the area of training and updating of teachers, translation of textbooks and organisation of educational travels.

Over the last three school years the following initiatives were undertaken: refresher courses for both resident and non-resident students, free educational travels to Slovenia, addressed to pupils of schools at all levels, literary and scientific competitions for young people; furthermore free textbooks for primary school were provided and the winners of eight study grants were selected which the Republic of Slovenia awards each year to the teachers of schools with Slovenian as teaching language in Italy.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Office for the Teaching in Slovenian and the National Agency for the Development of School Autonomy (A.N.S.A.S.) to improve the collaboration between the two bodies in favour of schools with Slovenian as teaching language.

Furthermore, “transfrontier campuses” have been organised involving students of senior secondary schools from Friuli Venezia Giulia, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary.

As regards education, the Joint Committee for the Slovenian Minority interviewed by the Ministry of the Interior in connection with the state of implementation of the Framework Convention with specific reference to the implementation of Law No. 38/2001 recognised that the statalisation of the bilingual school of San Pietro al Natisone has been completed and also added that the Regional Educational Committee for Teaching in Slovenian (art. 13, par. 3) has been established, whose competences remain to be defined.

Furthermore, the above committee pointed out that the Slovenian section of the Trieste Conservatory Giuseppe Tartini has not been set up and as for the other aspects of education it stressed that the general reform recently adopted by Parliament does not include provisions relevant to schools with Slovenian as teaching language.

However, during the parliamentary debate the competent Minister accepted an agenda committing the Government to give consideration to the needs of these schools.

In the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia special attention is also given to the teaching of Friulian.

In this connection indications of projects now being carried out in Friulian schools are given below.

Thanks to the multiannual project Aghis the networking of the following schools was possible: schools of Faedis, Trasaghis and Tavagnacco; kindergartens of Adegliacco, Colugna, Marsure and Povoletto; primary schools of Adegliacco, Alesso, Bordano, Faedis and Povoletto.

This project is carried out in a “team-teaching” modality with multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary connections; this year a cooperation with the Albanian minority of Calabria has also started.

The project *Sentieri, trois, putice, stezice, schtaiglan, staigelan, stazice, weg*, includes all local varieties used in bi-multilingual teaching/learning and it is based on a multiannual initiative financed by the Ministry of Education.

The network of schools includes the following: Didactic Directorate of Tarvisio, project leader for quadrilinguism (Italian- Friulian- Slovenian – German); Comprehensive Institute of Ampezzo for the trilingual island of Sauris; Comprehensive Institute of Paluzza for trilingualism in Cleulis/Timau (Italian-Friulian-“Timavese”); Comprehensive Institute of Tarcento; State Junior Secondary School of Cividale del Friuli; Didactic Circle of Moggio Udinese for Resian; the State Bilingual Didactic Directorate of San Pietro al Natisone; the Comprehensive Institute “Centro Studi” of San Pietro al Natisone; the Comprehensive Institute of San Pietro di Cadore (BL).

The programme “*Le piccole stelle del carro minore*”⁵ is a national network project financed by the Ministry of Education with funds allocated by Law No. 482/1999; it includes materials prepared by kindergarten, primary and junior secondary schools of Friuli. Four linguistic minorities participate in the project: Friulians, Walser, Grecanici and Arberëshe. The Friulian schools include the Didactic Directorate of Codroipo (leader of the national project), the Junior Secondary School “G. Bianchi” of Codroipo, the Junior Secondary School “L. Da Vinci” of Mortegliano.

The primary schools of the Didactic Circle of Codroipo have prepared a volume and a CD ROM aimed at teachers which contain and describe a few teaching units of Friulian based on a multilingual approach; they also present small printed volumes containing Friulian texts prepared by the classes that participated in the national project.

“*Il sogno di una cosa/Il sium di une robe*”⁶ is a text by writer and film director Pier Paolo Pasolini and it is used by the teachers of the Junior Secondary School of San Daniele del Friuli and Tricesimo to promote the pleasure of reading in Friulian.

As far as the education of **Roma minors** is concerned, it is to be pointed out that all minors living on the national territory, whether they are Italian citizens or not, must attend compulsory education.

In synergy with the Regions and the territorial authorities, the Regional Offices of Education carry out prevention and countering activities as regards the risk of school drop-out, with special emphasis on the groups affected by more serious difficulties.

This applies to Italian citizen minors and for all alien minors living on the territory, including those with an irregular status, in compliance with article 38 of the Consolidated Text of Provisions governing Immigration and the Status of Aliens (Legislative Decree No. 286 of 25th July 1998) as well as with article 45 of the related regulation adopted by means of President’s of the Republic Decree No. 394 of 1999.

The above provision was mentioned in Circular Letter No. 110 of 14th December 2007 of the Ministry of Education, concerning the registration in schools

⁵ “The Small Stars of the Little Bear”

⁶ “The Dream of a Thing”

of all types and levels for school year 2008-2009, which among others stressed the circumstance that for many of these minors the considerable risk exists of failure to comply with compulsory education, of being employed at an early age as minor workers and of being exploited as beggars, especially in large cities.

The Advisory Committee found that among Roma students there is a high level of absenteeism and it stressed the need to deal with the causes of this situation.

In this connection it is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Education does not have reliable data concerning the school attendance of Roma, Sinti and Traveller pupils, owing to indicated difficulties in carrying out a monitoring arising from the frequent movements of some groups belonging to these communities, whose presence is likely to be recorded either twice or not at all.

Out of an estimated figure amounting to 36,000 Roma, Sinti and Travellers minors appropriately aged for compulsory education, only one third, that is 12,342 individuals, is registered in Italian schools; this figure includes an increase by 4.3% as compared to school year 2006/2007 when it amounted to 11,832 individuals.

More than half of them attends primary schools, while only 1.5% attains senior secondary school level.

The regions with the highest number of Roma students are the following: Latium (2,331), Lombardy (1,939), Veneto (1,186) and Calabria (1,167) followed by Piedmont (1,162), **as shown by the Table in the Appendix.**

As regards Roma pupils registered in state schools no cases of “widespread discrimination” are recorded, while difficulties in the learning process continue to exist, because of both widespread truancy and of peripheral location of the camps where these minors live at times in isolated conditions.

It is worth mentioning that in a few areas, e.g. in the area of Rome, intervention plans are being carried out whereby a 120.00 Euro contribution is granted to each child coming from these communities who registered at school for him/her to buy school necessities and a widespread transport service is ensured.

In the schools where pupils belonging to these groups are present language laboratories and laboratories for didactic recovery have been organised to favour the learning of Italian as well as integration.

Another Table also included in the Annex shows a detailed subdivision of Roma pupils at provincial level and registered in Italian schools, from kindergartens to senior secondary schools.

In connection with the recommendation worded by the Advisory Committee concerning the need to carry out more efforts aimed at guaranteeing the regular school attendance by Roma, Sinti and Travellers students as well as at strengthening the visibility of their culture in school curricula, stress is laid on numerous initiatives undertaken to guarantee a better access to schools for Roma children.

These initiatives include the introduction of cultural mediators in schools, at the expense of municipal authorities. As the figure of cultural mediators is historically connected to migrations, which are ever changing, their specific professional skills fall under the competence of Local Authorities.

Furthermore, the training pattern to attain these professional skills, as it is put forward by local administration bodies, is more adequate in fulfilling the specific training requirements arising at local level than a theoretical pattern drawn up at central level.

Generally, children belonging to the Roma population receive free transport, a contribution to buy school necessities, free textbooks and free access to the school canteen.

As regards the possibility of strengthening the visibility of the culture and of the linguistic heritage of these communities within school curricula, a possible intervention is devoting a percentage of organisational autonomy of 20% to these activities, by each autonomous school institution.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

In this connection reference is made to the indications given under art. 7 of the Convention concerning the freedom of association granted to the minorities living in Italy.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

According to the Italian legal system modifications to the territory occur through a complex procedure implying various tiers of responsibility and the acquisition of the opinion of the various populations involved through a referendum.

According to article 132 of the Constitution the merging of existing Regions and the creation of new Regions can be carried out by means of a constitutional law; similarly Provinces and Municipalities can be included in a Region upon detachment from the one they previously belonged to, provided the majority of the involved populations give their approval.

According to article 133 of the Constitution, the modification of the territories of Provinces and the establishment of new Provinces within a Region are provided for through laws of the Republic, upon initiative of the Municipalities and after acquisition of the opinion of the Region itself.

The Region acquires the opinion of the involved population and can issue regional laws to establish new Municipalities in its territory as well as modify their territories and names.

No legal measures aimed at altering the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to historical linguistic minorities have been adopted. On the contrary, recent requests for changes have been submitted by a number of minorities in our Country.

In this connection it is worth mentioning the request submitted by the historical Ladin Municipalities of Cortina d'Ampezzo, Livinallongo del Col di Lana and Colle Santa Lucia now part of the Region Veneto to be included in the Region Trentino-South Tyrol.

On the 28th and 29th October 2007 a **referendum was held**, in compliance with the above mentioned art. 132, second paragraph, of the Constitution, to decide on the detachment of the above mentioned historical Ladin Municipalities from the Region Veneto and their inclusion in the Autonomous Region Trentino-South Tyrol, more specifically in the Province of Bolzano.

The reason of this initiative lies in the circumstance that the Ladins live in a territory whose natural centre is the Sella Massif: Badia Valley with Marebbe, Gardena Valley in the Province of Bolzano, Fassa Valley with Moena in the Province of Trento, Livinallongo del Col di Lana, Colle Santa Lucia and Cortina d'Ampezzo in the Province of Belluno.

The Ladins living in Veneto, like all historical linguistic minorities, are protected by Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999, while the Ladins of Trentino-South Tyrol are specifically protected by the Special Statute of that Region, by its implementing provisions and by the Provincial Laws of Trento and Bolzano.

As early as in the time between 1945 and 1948 the three Municipalities, that participated in the referendum, undertook numerous attempts to join the other Ladins of the Province of Bolzano, owing to their common century long history as well as to their affinity based on their language, culture and traditions.

Article 17

1 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.

2 The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

Article 18

1 The Parties shall endeavour to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighbouring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.

2 Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage transfrontier co-operation.

As regards articles 17 and 18 reference is made to the comments to article 2 concerning the issues of transfrontier cooperation and relations with the countries of origin of the linguistic minority groups living in our Country.

Article 19

The Parties undertake to respect and implement the principles enshrined in the present Framework Convention making, where necessary, only those limitations, restrictions or derogations which are provided for in international legal instruments, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in so far as they are relevant to the rights and freedoms flowing from the said principles.

As regards the content of this provision reference is made to what has already been said in previous articles and particularly in the premise in connection with the compliance on the part of Italy with the obligations arising from the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

As shown by the monitoring activity carried out in cooperation with the Prefectures of the Provinces where the minorities live and which was aimed at the drawing up of the present report, **the main tool for the enhancement of the language has proved to be the linguistic helpdesk** – a service in which specialised staff can meet requests of translation and communication.

Its main tasks certainly include the setting up of facilities capable of ensuring the citizens' right to use their mother tongue in their daily life and in relations with the public administration. In the course of time it became a **reference for the activities of protection and promotion in favour of minorities** carried out by local administrations.

In any case the support of the community and of the local administration is of paramount importance for the enhancement of minority languages, as the involvement of civil society widens the awareness of sharing a common responsibility in the enhancement of the linguistic and cultural heritage.

The articles relating to Title III are omitted, as the aspects concerning the compliance with the Framework Convention have been examined in the premise and in Part A of this Report.

Part C – Monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Convention

C.1) Fact-sheets drawn up by the Ministry of the Interior relying on data provided by Prefectures- UTG

Fact-sheets:

Arbëresh minority;
Catalan minority;
German-speaking minority (Cimbrians);
Croatian minority;
French-speaking minority;
Franco-Provençal speaking minority;
Friulian minority;
German-speaking minority (Sappada);
Greek minority;
Ladin minority;
German-speaking minority (Mòcheni);
Occitan minority;
Sardinian minority;
Slovenian minority;
German-speaking minority (Walser)

ARBËRESH MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>AVELLINO Municipality of Greci</p>	<p>-Setting up of a <i>linguistic helpdesk</i> at the municipal headquarters– translation of the deeds made by the municipality into Arbërisht;</p> <p>-Establishment of the <i>Office for Relations with the Public</i> staffed by employees who know the minority language to ensure that users have full access to information.</p> <p>-Teaching of Arbërisht in primary and junior secondary schools.</p> <p>-Language teaching courses for adults.</p>		<p>- Expenditure commitment for <i>signs bearing toponyms</i></p>	<p>-<i>Katudi Jone Hore Arbëreshë</i> day of cultural exchanges with Arbërisht speaking municipalities.</p> <p>- At the <i>Municipal Ethno-Linguistic Museum</i> an area is being set up for the promotion of cultural, historical roots</p> <p>-<i>Festival of linguistic minorities “Words in the Wind”</i> – aim of the festival is knowing the ethnic minorities living in Europe from the viewpoint of social and political differences.</p> <p>-Awarding of literary and artistic prizes for works written in Arbërisht.</p>	
<p>CAMPOBASSO</p>	<p>-Multifunctional linguistic helpdesk– <i>Molise plurale</i></p>			<p>-Organisation of a show in Arbërisht</p>	
<p>CAMPOBASSO Campomarino</p>	<p>-Multifunctional linguistic helpdesk</p> <p>-Language courses at the junior secondary school</p>		<p>-Historical murals of the years 2000/2007</p>	<p>-Organisation of a Literary Cafe</p> <p>- Historical parade- Years 2005-2006-2007</p>	
<p>CAMPOBASSO Municipality of Montecilfone</p>	<p>-Incentives to the use of Arbërisht in daily life.</p> <p>-Municipal and regional linguistic helpdesk</p>	<p>-Publications and research work on the origins and historical characters of the Albanian homeland.</p> <p>-Bilingual bimonthly review “<i>Rivista Kamastra</i>”</p>		<p>-Organisation of meetings, folk and music festivals, historical commemorations, photo exhibitions .</p> <p>-Organisation of a Literary Cafe.</p>	<p>-Exchanges of visits of Diplomatic Authorities with Albania</p> <p>-Connections with groups located in Sicilia, Calabria and Puglia.</p>

CAMPOBASSO Municipality of Portocannone	-Multifunctional linguistic helpdesk			-Visit to Kluja on 20/09/2008
CAMPOBASSO Municipality of Ururi	-Linguistic helpdesk			
CATANZARO Municipality of Maida	-Initiation of procedures for the setting up of a linguistic helpdesk. -3 vocational training courses for municipal and school employees		-Periodical functioning of a helpdesk. - Updating of the town toponyms with the indication of the names in Italian and Arbërisht	-Guided visits and cultural exchanges with municipalities where minorities of Arbëresh origin live.
CATANZARO Municipality of Andali	-Initiation of procedures for the setting up of a Linguistic Helpdesk			
COSENZA		-The project <i>Arberia TV Occitana</i> has been financed – Radio and television broadcasts in the minority languages for the Arbëresh and Occitan linguistic minorities in cooperation with the University of Calabria.	Project <i>Toponomastica</i> : the project envisages the posting of bilingual road signs in Arbërisht and Occitan	-Strategic integrated project <i>BESA</i> , Electronic Library of Albanian Sites, aimed at creating an integrated system for the cataloguing and utilisation of the books belonging to the Arbëresh community of the Province of Cosenza.
COSENZA Municipality of Guardia Piemontese	-Municipal linguistic helpdesk. -Teaching of Arbërisht in primary and junior secondary schools - Arbërisht courses for adults.			
COSENZA Municipality of Mongrassano	-Linguistic helpdesk. -Adoption of projects for	- In the provincial territory free distribution of the magazine	- Permanent exhibition of the traditions of the Arbëresh culture with	-Organisation of events lasting a whole week devoted to the minority

Arbëresh language and culture courses in kindergartens and primary schools.

- Arbëresh language and culture course for adults.

“Pensiamo Mediterraneo” in which the Municipality purchased a page for the publication (either in the minority language or in bilingual form) of articles or notices.

exhibition of objects and images accompanied by multilingual captions and descriptions.

culture and entitled *“An Exhibition of the Arbëresh Identity”*.

-A journey in the culture, life and traditions of the Arbëresh of Calabria.

-Work in progress for the following initiatives:

*documentary on the Arbëresh identity entitled *“Mungrasana: Katund arbëresh” (Mongrassano – an Arbëresh Village)*;

* interactive CD on the history and traditions of Mongrassano.

**COSENZA
Municipality of
Plataci**

-Linguistic helpdesk at the municipality and at municipal schools.

- Local project for the study of the mother tongue and of cultural traditions, carried out for 4 school years outside school hours in the local primary and junior secondary schools; the project is financed on a yearly basis by the Ministry of Education and co-financed by the Mountain Community Alto Jonio of Trebisacce for school year 2005-2006.

-Projects concerning rural and urban toponymy with bilingual signs .

- Yearly project still in progress concerning the management and updating of the municipal web site for the dissemination and enhancement of the Arbëresh heritage.

-Festival of the little Arbëresh singers- it is a singing event including new songs sung by artists younger than 14 and coming from the various Italian-Albanian villages; the event is financed by the Region Calabria.

-Competition for the making of murals, this year the competition celebrates its second edition which is entitled: *“Plataci in the Park: Nature, Tradition and Culture/Pilateni ne Park: Natyra, Zakoni dhe Kultura”*, the event is financed by the Authority of the National Park of Pollino.

**COSENZA
Municipality of
San Giorgio
Albanese**

-Project carried out for the fourth year on the municipal linguistic helpdesk which enables all citizens to have a better knowledge of Arbërisht.

-Bilingual road signs have been completed and replaced where necessary

-Strategic projects financed by the ROP Calabria 2000/2006 aimed at the promotion of knowledge and fruition of the cultural heritage, in

-Printing of Arbëresh calendars sent to local residents and to expatriates all over the world; this activity is

-Arbërisht project for the pupils of primary schools.

connection with entertainment activities and cultural animation as well as with the setting up of 4 reception facilities supporting the “Centre for the Study, Assistance and Development of the Arbëresh Minority”, established in Cuccio to host conferences, debates and meetings, including videoconferencing, involving Arbëresh personalities and experts including those coming from the cultural circles in Albania

carried out in collaboration with other municipalities belonging to the Arbëresh minority.

**COSENZA
Municipality of
Santa Sofia
d’Epiro**

-Teaching of Arbërisht in compulsory education schools

- Bilingual road signs and toponyms

-Museum hosting a collection of Albanian costumes depicting scenes of everyday life.

-Civic library “*Angelo Masci*” with about 2,500 volumes dealing with the culture and history of the Arbëresh. A branch is devoted to tales, proverbs and songs written in Arbërisht; soon it will be possible to visit it through the Internet site.

**COSENZA
Municipality of
Spezzano
Albanese**

-Linguistic helpdesk
- Language teaching in compulsory education schools.

-Cultural activities, through projects aimed at minority protection in compliance with Regional Law No. 15/2003 for the social inclusion of minors and families of Arbëresh origin

**COSENZA
Municipality of
Falconara**

-Municipal linguistic helpdesk.

- Bilingual public posters and notices.
- Cultural and

-Headquarters of the Pro Loco of Falconara Albanese (Office for the Local Promotion

-Courses of ethnic music and dance. Participation with the school in the yearly

Albanese	<p>- Arbëresh language and culture courses for municipal employees and for teachers and pupils of all schools.</p> <p>-Issuing of bilingual certified administrative deeds.</p>	<p>enogastronomical of television broadcasts concerning the community (TEN; Videocalabria).</p>	<p>of Falconara Albanese) -Bilingual toponyms.</p>	<p>itinerant folk show for linguistic minorities.</p> <p>-Participation in conferences, exhibitions and festivals related to linguistic minorities.</p> <p>-Organisation of cultural events and conferences.</p> <p>-Forthcoming bilingual publication of: “<i>Opera Omnia by Felice Staffa</i>” and “<i>Fantastic Tales for Children</i>”</p>
FOGGIA Municipality of Chieuti	<p>-Municipal linguistic helpdesk.</p> <p>-During the current year a course of Arbërisht literacy for municipal employees is expected to start.</p>			<p>-During school year 2008 research work was carried out to collect folk songs and dance and a show was organised in which children were dressed with traditional costumes.</p> <p>-In kindergartens projects are being carried out aiming at the recovery and enhancement of the historical cultural heritage.</p> <p>- In April 2009 a monograph on Chieuti and Arbërisht was completed.</p>
PALERMO Municipality of Piana degli Albanesi	<p>-Over the years the following activities were organised: training courses in Arbërisht for teachers and pupils of compulsory education schools and for municipal employees.</p> <p>-Linguistic helpdesks.</p>	<p>- The municipality carries out a busy editorial activity including the publication of a magazine in Arbërisht, a folk group and a local broadcasting station, <i>Radio Hora</i>, that also broadcasts programmes in Arbërisht.</p>	<p>- Setting up of the Municipal Library, of the Civic Museum and organisation of numerous international conferences on ethnic and linguistic minorities.</p> <p>- Posting of a web site in collaboration with the University of Palermo.</p> <p>-Theatre workshops in</p>	<p>-In order to link the Arbëresh communities in Sicily and to protect their cultural, linguistic and religious heritage, the municipality promoted the setting up of a supramunicipal political-administrative institution based on public law entitled “<i>Unione di Comuni</i>”</p>

Arbërisht.
-Bilingual signs and toponyms.

Besa”; four out of the five Arbëresh municipalities of the Province participate in this initiative (Palazzo Adriano, Contessa Entellina, Mezzojuso, Santa Cristina Gela)

-The project “*Brinjat*” aimed at the protection, safeguarding, enhancement and development of the Arbëresh cultural heritage also involved the Municipalities of the *Unione Besa*.

- In the framework of this project the following activities have been organised: tourist-religious events (Easter Events), restoration of books, documents and images.

-- Many publications in Arbërisht both on hard copies and on CD, as well as translations into Arbërisht of tourist guides and commentaries of videos on Piana degli Albanesi.

PALERMO Linguistic
Municipality of helpdesk
Palazzo Adriano

-In 2005 adoption of a project entitled: “*Knowledge is Twofold: Knowing a Topic and Knowing Where We Can Find Information on It*”; the project comprises various initiatives including:

*research and editorial activities resulting in the publication of “Last

Songs of Bala”;

* realisation of a DVD in Italian and Arbërisht.

- In 2006 adoption of a project entitled “Palazzo Adriano in the Language, in the Music and in its Traditions” aimed at the setting up of a multifunctional multimedia linguistic helpdesk to disseminate the language and the culture through the distribution of advertising material, music, photos and videos as well as through editorial activities.

- Linguistic-Cultural-Educational project for the recovery of the social texture of the Arbëresh community of Villa Badessa carried out by the Junior Secondary School G. D’Annunzio in Cepagatti in school years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009; the project included the rearrangement of an existing library and the implementation of educational projects for the pupils of the Municipalities of Rosicano, Nocciano and Catignano.

PESCARA

POTENZA
Municipality of
San Paolo
Albanese

-Linguistic helpdesk open in the morning

Museum of Arbëresh culture

Implementation of two Leader projects in connection with GAL A.L.L.BA.:

-Exhibition “Icons and Holy Images in the Churches of San Paolo Albanese”;

-Volume “Icons and

**POTENZA
Municipality of
Maschito**

-Setting up of an Arbëresh linguistic helpdesk tasked with the provision of information and assistance to Schools and Cultural Associations in their research activities and protection projects

- Monthly cultural magazine “Basilicata Arbereshe”

Holy Images in the Churches of San Paolo Albanese”.

The following projects are being carried out:

“San Paolo Albanese and its Heritage” advertising campaign;

“Management of the Specialised Library for Arbërisht Speaking Persons”

- First edition of “Fest’Arbereshe” organised in collaboration with the Regional Linguistic Helpdesk and with other Arbërisht speaking municipalities of the Region;

-Recovery project organised with the assistance of a supporter of typical Arbëresh culture and traditions.

-The Project for the recovery of the old Civic Library “Guglielmucci” has been initiated

**POTENZA
Municipality of
San Costantino
Albanese**

Municipal Linguistic Helpdesk

Ethnic museum of the Arbëresh civilisation equipped with multimedia instruments aimed at disseminating the learning of the language and traditions of the Arbëresh culture

-Cultural and promotional activities associated with the workshop-museum of surdulina (a type of bagpipe).

-Folk events .

- Acquisition of material both hard copies and audiovisual material concerning the history and traditions of the municipality and of the Arbëresh area

-Religious feast of the Patron Saint of

-Associations active in the sector.

-Exchanges and cultural cooperation with non Arbëresh groups and associations.

-Study grants and contributions addressed to schools, associations or individual students for the drafting and publication of dissertations on

**POTENZA
Municipality of
Barile**

-Linguistic helpdesk
-Testing phase of courses on teaching techniques of arbërisht;
Ethnic/linguistic research work by students.

Monthly magazine “Basilicata Arbereswhe”

-Web portal
-Municipal library at the Socio-Cultural Centre “Don Domenico Telesca”

the municipality when “Nusazit” are made (Arbëresh pyrotechnic puppets), which bear great significance for the Arbëresh traditional culture.

-Presentation of the volume “Arbërisht and Italian in Barile. The Lexical Heritage”
- First edition of Fest’Arbereshe.
-Enogastronomical festival of typical Arbëresh products.

the history, culture and traditions.

The following activities are in progress:
Arbëresh Calendar 2009
A multimedia archive of Arbëresh culture addressed to students.

CATALAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>SASSARI Municipality of Alghero</p>	<p>-Linguistic helpdesk.</p> <p>-Course of Linguistic Specialisation for municipal employees</p> <p>- Teaching of Catalan in public schools (kindergartens, primary schools and junior secondary schools)</p>	<p>-The quarterly magazine "l'Alguer" and the local television company "Catalan TV" are written and broadcast in Catalan</p>	<p>-Bilingual toponymy</p>	<p>-Catalan language courses at the "Escola de Algheres Pascual Scanu".</p> <p>-Language and literature courses promoted by the <i>Fundaciò Cultural l'Atenau Algheres</i>, and taught by a mother-tongue teacher. The courses are totally free.</p> <p>- Implementation of the project "<i>Roco Català de Sardenya: Activities Aimed at the Enhancement and Safeguarding of the Daily Use of the Catalan Language of Alghero</i>"</p>	

GERMAN SPEAKING MINORITY (CIMBRIANS)

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
VERONA Municipality Selva di Progno	-Linguistic helpdesk entitled "Spazio cimbri". -Language courses	-Editorial activities concerning historical research -Radio Cimbra.	-Museum of the Cimbrians - Renovation of ancient local museums and historical sites	-Organisation of meetings and cultural, folklore and remembrance events	
VERONA	-Linguistic helpdesk located at the Cimbrian Culture Museum.	-Radio broadcasts for the dissemination of initiatives through an advertising campaign on Radio Adige in Verona. -Daily broadcasts both on FM channels and on the Web in collaboration with Radio Cimbri Lessinia.			
BELLUNO			-Toponymy interventions: preparation and posting of signs indicating Cimbrian villages		
BELLUNO Municipalities of Farra d'Alpago and Tambre	-Cimbrian linguistic helpdesk. -Course on Cimbrian language and culture. -Linguistic helpdesk, available to the local population and to tourists.			Publication of a children's book	
BELLUNO Municipality of Pian Osteria del Cansiglio			-Initiative aimed at setting up a "Library and Cinetheque" at the Ethnography Centre		
TRENTO Municipality of Luserna	- By means of provincial law 7th August 2006 "Educational and	-Support to the publication sector and to information both written and audiovisual		-Setting up of a specific service for the promotion of local linguistic	

Training System of Trentino”, the Province implemented the principle of the protection of local linguistic minorities in the schools located in the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian Municipalities.

- By means of provincial law No. 6 of 19th June 2008 “Provisions to Protect and Promote Local Linguistic Minorities” the language of a given area is associated to the national language both in official public deeds and in ordinary usage

VICENZA

-Setting up of two linguistic helpdesks.

-Language courses devoted to the employees of the municipalities participating in the project.

in the respective language of each community.

- After the Conference of Minorities has issued its opinion, the Autonomous Province of Trento can conclude conventions with the public licensed broadcasting company to ensure the promotion of the cultural features of the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations by means of radio-television broadcasting.

-Bilingual road signs in the eight municipalities of the Plateau participating in the project.

minorities and establishment of the Conference of Minorities tasked with the verification of the implementation level achieved by legislation and projects.

-Cycles of conferences and folk shows

-Publication of a Cimbrian Grammar.

CROATIAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
CAMPOBASSO	-Multifunctional linguistic helpdesk – Molise plurale				
CAMPOBASSO Municipality of Acquaviva Collecroce			-Toponymy with bilingual writing (Italian and Na-nasu)	-Theatre plays in Na-nasu at the primary school -Organisation of a literary Cafe and of two ethnographic exhibitions with the indication of the na-nasu names of the ancient instruments on display	
CAMPOBASSO Municipality of Montemitro	-Linguistic helpdesk -Courses of Molisan Croatian -Issuing of multilingual population register certificates upon request	-Bilingual publications by the foundation “Agostina Piccoli”	-Toponyms are partially in bilingual writing	-Organisation of a literary Cafe	-Exchanges of visits with the Diplomatic Authorities
CAMPOBASSO Municipality of San Felice del Molise	-Teaching of the minority language in the kindergarten and in the primary school -Issuing of multilingual population register certificates		-Toponyms in bilingual writing		

FRENCH-SPEAKING MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
TORINO Mountain Community Val Pellice	-Linguistic helpdesk -Many French courses.	-French broadcasts A la une!	-Creation of web sites		-Local Cultural Associations and Agencies
TORINO Mountain Community Pinerolese Pedemontano				-Participation in the project “Year 2008– The Occitan, Franco-Provençal and French Mother Tongues as Added Value of the Mountain in the Province of Torino”	
TORINO Municipality of Città di Susa	-Linguistic helpdesk	-Television broadcasts with repeaters	-Updating of the Internet site.	-Organisation of outdoor shows in French.	

FRANCO-PROVENÇAL SPEAKING MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
VALLE D'AOSTA	<p>Four computerised linguistic helpdesks have been set up in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aosta; - Mountain Community Grand-Combin; - Mountain Community Grand-Paradis; - Mountain Community Mont-Emilius. 	<p>- Press conference in 2008.</p> <p>- Implementation of a project envisaging the publication of a few pages in patois in each issue of the main bulletins of the 71 Municipalities where Franco-Provençal is spoken in the Region Valle d'Aosta.</p>	<p>- Web site in the minority language.</p>	<p>- Organisation of the "Concours de Patois Abbé Cerlogne", involving kindergartens, primary and junior secondary schools of the Region as well as the Franco-Provençal speaking communities of Faeto and Celle San Vito in the Province of Foggia.</p> <p>- Planning of a didactic methodology for the teaching of Franco-Provençal in the courses organised by the "Ecole populaire de patois" of the Region.</p> <p>- Three schools coordinated by the Regional Education Department participate in the "Plan of Financial Interventions for the Implementation of National and Local Projects concerning the Study of Languages and Cultural Traditions Belonging to a Linguistic Minority"</p> <p>- Drawing up of an electronic Franco-Provençal glossary available to all citizens.</p>	<p>Advertising campaign including the logo, the posters and the bookmarks for linguistic helpdesks.</p> <p>Drafting and publication of pages in Franco-Provençal in parish and municipal bulletins.</p>

- Publication of two works using Franco-Provençal aimed at the pupils of kindergartens, and of primary and junior secondary schools:

“Lo Dichonnéro di persou patoésan”, Italian/French/

Patois dictionary;

“Mé lamo le conte, contanèn euncò!”, a collection of tales and music based on music as a game.

-The project Communication Event Occitan Lengua Olimpica was meaningful also for the Franco-Provençal minority, that for the first time was able to publish its symbols on posters, postcards, stickers, flags, etc.

TORINO

-Promotion of the Franco-Provençal language and culture

TORINO - Franco-Provençal language and culture course
Municipality of Ronco Canavese

-Toponymy

TORINO -Linguistic helpdesk -Television repeaters
Municipality of Città di Susa

-Organisation of shows in which Franco-Provençal is used

TORINO - Setting up of a linguistic helpdesk at the Municipality for translations and communication in Franco-Provençal, as well as for interpretation of oral material and drafting of written material
Municipality of Venaus

-Forthcoming publication of a collection of maps of the entire municipal territory with toponyms in Franco-Provençal as well; prints will be appropriately posted for tourist reception and information.

-Publication of the work: “PÖESZIË ÂN MODÂ VËNO” by Luigi Vayr, a collection of poems written in Franco-Provençal and translated into Italian.

-Organisation (in collaboration with EFFEPI and PRO-LOCO) of international conferences on .

				Franco-Provençal
TORINO				
Municipality of Novalesa				-Leaflets with information .
TORINO	-Linguistic helpdesk			
Municipality of Travesto		-Training of personnel		
TORINO	-Linguistic helpdesk			
Municipality of Ala di Stura		-Training of personnel		
TORINO	-Linguistic helpdesk			
Municipality of Viù		-Training of personnel		
TORINO	-Linguistic helpdesk			
Municipality of Ingria				
TORINO			-Multimedia material for didactic purposes.	-Section on “minority languages” at the film and video festival “Valsusa Filnèfest”
Municipality of Condove			-Municipal Internet site	
TORINO				
Municipality of Giaglione			-New pages on the bilingual web site in Italian and Franco-Provençal .	-Bilingual booklet on the Franco-Provençal cultural identity.
TORINO				
Municipality of Giaveno				-Promotion and dissemination of the minority language and culture.
TORINO	Language and culture courses aimed at local authorities personnel, teachers and local subjects in Pont Canadese and Ronco Canavese	-Articles in Franco-Provençal are published in the magazines of the associations (EFFEPI, magazine of the association bearing the same name, La Brasa, La Spluvia magazine of “Ij Canteri”, association for the promotion of ethnical and environmental values of the valleys Orco and Soana)	-Toponyms in Ronco Canavese --Electronic linguistic helpdesk in the Municipality of Pont-Canavese; the helpdesk can be consulted through a pc located at the municipal library.	-Effepi Competition on local culture promoting the study and use of the language; schools largely participate.
Mountain Community Valli Orco and Soana				
TORINO				
Mountain Community Valli di Lanzo		-Promotion of the language through weekly radio broadcasts..	-Toponymy interventions	

<p>TORINO Mountain Community Val Sangone</p>	<p>-In the Municipality of Giaveno: *Linguistic helpdesk in the trying phase *Training *Didactic project: “Let’s draw fairy tales and their landscape” (carried out in school year 2008/2009 in the primary school Maria Ausiliatrice)</p>	<p>-Bimonthly programme “A Nohta Moda” broadcasted by Giaveno TV</p>	<p>-Bilingual signs</p>	<p>-III Edition of “Nohte Via” evening conversations in Franco-Provençal in Coazze, Gaveno and Valgioie -Publication of the bilingual promotional leaflet “Our Ancient Crafts”</p>
<p>TORINO Mountain Community Alta Valle Susa</p>	<p>-Linguistic helpdesk</p>		<p>-Web site and virtual museum.</p>	
<p>TORINO Mountain Community Pinerolese Pedemontano</p>			<p>-Toponymy</p>	<p>-Participation in the project: “Year 2008 – The Mother Tongues Occitan, Franco-Provençal and French as Added Value of the Mountain in the Province of Turin”.</p>

FRIULIAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>VENICE</p> <p>Municipalities of Portogruaro and San Michele al Tagliamento</p>	<p>-A linguistic helpdesk is being set up.</p>		<p>- Setting up of signs in the municipal territory bearing indications in Friulian on historical and natural sites and places .</p>	<p>- The Friulian community of the Portogruaro area is very active with initiatives in the publication and cultural sectors.</p> <p>- The Municipality of San Michele al Tagliamento submitted a project and forwarded it to the competent ministerial offices for the necessary procedure to be carried out.</p>	
<p>PORDENONE</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Società Filalogiche Furlane, the Provincial Administration has organised Friulian language and culture courses for local authorities employees.</p> <p>- The educational sector is particularly interested in the didactic activity implying studies and research into the historical, cultural and linguistic situation as well as into Friulian traditions.</p> <p>- Translation of official documents of a few Local Authorities.</p>	<p>The following magazines are worth mentioning:</p> <p>-“Sot la Nape” published bimonthly;</p> <p>“Ce fastu?” published every six months;</p> <p>“Strolic furlan” published yearly.</p> <p>-Particularly interesting programmes in Friulian are broadcasted by Radio Voce nel Deserto and Telepordenone.</p>	<p>On the Internet site of the Provincial Administration a special section entitled “Friulian Linguistic Helpdesk” includes information on initiatives in Friulian; the section of the site devoted to videos includes videos on news in Friulian.</p> <p>As regards toponymy, road signs are present.</p>	<p>- Local Authorities and cultural associations have started initiatives aimed at disseminating and enhancing the Friulian culture and language.</p> <p>- In the educational sector five projects in Friulian are being carried out in 2008-2009. They range from the story of Pasolini to fairy tales, histories and folk traditions.</p>	
<p>PORDENONE</p> <p>Municipality of Valvasone</p>	<p>Linguistic helpdesk also tasked with the translation of administrative</p>				

documents as well as with communications to citizens; drafting of information on the culture, history and traditions of the territory, disseminated by means of bilingual instruments.

GERMAN SPEAKING MINORITY (Sappada)

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>BELLUNO Municipality of Sappada</p>	<p>Setting up of a linguistic helpdesk. Training courses for minority language teachers and for adults.</p>	<p>Publication of materials in the minority language.</p>	<p>Bilingual signs have been prepared and posted. A web site was created and bilingual road signs were prepared.</p>	<p>A reading and writing practical handbook has been drawn up, including a vocabulary and a collection of useful expressions.</p>	<p>A children's DVD cartoon in the minority language is being made and the cartoon "Pimpa" is being dubbed.</p>

GREEK MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>REGGIO CALABRIA</p>	<p>The Province organises training courses on Greek-Calabrian addressed both to public employees and to citizens.</p> <p>Setting up of linguistic helpdesks within the Province and in some Municipalities of the Greek speaking Area (Bova, Bova Marina, Roghidi, Roccaforte del Greco, Melito Porto Salvo, Condofuri), to provide information to citizens who use the minority language as well as translations of laws and administrative deeds into the minority language</p>	<p>Publication of articles in the minority language in the local Calabrian daylies to promote the use of the minority language.</p>		<p>Organisation of 4 conferences in collaboration with other provinces of Calabria.</p> <p>Exhibitions and exchanges of typical products involving the Municipalities of the Greek speaking Area.</p> <p>Project “IMMIA”, including 15 minority language municipalities along four intervention lines: linguistic helpdesk, training, toponymy and cultural activities.</p>	<p>Study grants on the Greek-Calabrian culture.</p>
<p>REGGIO CALABRIA</p> <p>Municipality of</p> <p>Bova and</p> <p>Mountain Community</p> <p>Capo Sud di Melito</p> <p>Porto Salvo</p>				<p>Realisation of the Project “Sprituality and Culture in the Greek-Calabrian Calabria”; two more projects concerning guided visits to the villages of the Griko speaking area and publication of volumes on the situation of the Griko speaking minority.</p>	

**REGGIO
CALABRIA
Municipality
of
Bova Marina**

By means of NOP funds, realisation of 2 projects on historical-cultural, linguistic and anthropological aspects of the Greek speaking area. Modern Greek has been taught for about 12 years in synergy with the Greek Consulate of Naples.

LECCE

Radio broadcasting of programmes aimed at the enhancement of “griko” musical traditions and realisation of news programmes in the minority language as well as distribution of periodicals

**LECCE
Municipality of
Martano**

Introduction of the “Griko” translation of writings on official documents, signs of itineraries, on municipal official cars and on the municipal logo.

The Ministry of Education financed the “Project Griko”, whereby the minority language was introduced as subject in the didactic activities of kindergartens, primary schools and junior secondary schools in the Municipalities of Grecia Salentina.

Course of “Griko”

Radio broadcasting of programmes for the enhancement of “Griko” musical traditions.

Distribution of periodicals in “Griko” throughout the municipal territory.

On signs, translation into “Griko” of the type of commercial undertaking existing on the territory.

Musical background of songs in “griko” active for incoming calls at the municipal switchboard.

Events for the recovery and enhancement of “Griko” traditions through songs and recitals.

in the kindergarten and primary school “F. Galiotta”.

LECCE Municipality of Corigliano d’Otranto	In the primary schools of this municipality projects for the learning and preservation of “Griko” are being carried out.	In the tourist sector Volunteer Community Service projects have been adopted with the following aims: Planning and management of a marketing and communication plan; Provision of a comprehensive instrument for tourist aimed at the complete fruition of the artistic heritage and of activities/events organised throughout the territory.	Twinning with the town of Ilion (Greece) as a liaison with tradition and future.
LECCE Municipality of Cutrofiano	As early as in 2006, a course of “Griko” has been started for the pupils of the IV and V classes	Starting of a course for the teaching of modern Greek at the comprehensive Institute “Don Bosco”.	
LECCE Municipality of Calimera	The Ministry of Education financed the “Project Griko”, whereby the minority language has been introduced as a subject of the didactic activities of kindergartens and primary and junior secondary schools in the Municipalities of Grecia Salentina.	When the patron saint’s day is celebrated, poems and texts in “Griko” are published in the local press.	

LADIN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>TRENTO</p> <p>Municipalities of Val di Fassa</p>	<p>- By means of provincial law 7th August 2006 “Educational and Training System of Trentino” the Province implemented the principle of the protection of local linguistic minorities in the schools located in the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian municipalities.</p> <p>- By means of provincial law No. 6 of 19th June 2008 “Provisions to Protect and Promote Local Linguistic Minorities” the language of a given area is associated to the national language both in official public deeds and in ordinary usage</p>	<p>-Support to the publication and information sector and to both written and audiovisual information in the respective language of each community.</p> <p>- After the Conference of Minorities has issued its opinion, the Autonomous Province of Trento can conclude conventions with the public licensed broadcasting company to ensure the promotion of the cultural features of the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations by means of radio-television broadcasting.</p>		<p>-Setting up of a specific service for the promotion of local linguistic minorities and establishment of the Conference of Minorities tasked with the verification of the implementation level achieved by legislation and projects.</p>	
<p>BELLUNO</p> <p>Municipalities of Cortina d’Ampezzo Colle Santa Lucia Livinallongo del Col di Lana</p>	<p>-Setting up of two linguistic helpdesks subsequently increased to eight, located at the headquarters of Mountain Communities and local administrations.</p> <p>The “Istituto Cultural Ladin de Jan” aims at promoting, protecting, enhancing and</p>	<p>-Publication of a bimonthly paper in Italian and Ladin and weekly publication of “La usc di Ladins”.</p> <p>-In the Cortina d’Ampezzo area the reception of Ladin RAI broadcasted by Bolzano Rai Tre is possible.</p> <p>-Half-yearly magazine Ladin! with essays by various experts on different subjects: toponymy, poetry, theatre, issues related</p>	<p>As regards toponymy bilingual signs have been posted and further research, study and posting of road signs in Ladin has been started.</p> <p>Organisation of exhibitions to enhance local traditions and crafts (in 2007 an exhibition on wrought iron, this</p>	<p>-A language course (Ladin of Ampezzo) has been published; the course is made up by two volumes (theory and practice), two CD’s and a paper didactic game;</p> <p>-Since 1975 the “Union de Ladis de Anpezo” has been active in Cortina d’Ampezzo; this association was</p>	<p>The Local Health Units have prepared a Charter of Services, which was then translated into two Ladin varieties (Ampezzano and Dolomytes/standard) and into a German variety; the Charter was then distributed to relevant actors.</p>

preserving the Ladin cultural and linguistic identity of the populations of the three founding municipalities; it implemented numerous projects including the following:

- language courses for Public Administration employees.;
- language courses for citizens and promotion of a literary competition;
- educational activities to enhance the Ladin culture and language;
- bilingual linguistic helpdesk.

A “master” specialisation course was organised in Cortina in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other municipal and school authorities; the course is intended for teachers of both compulsory education schools and linguistic senior secondary schools of the Province.

A university course has been organised in San Vito di Cadore; at the end of the course a degree in “Minorities and Intelcultural

to the Ladin Unions.

Publications:

- Ladini Oggi (Ladins Today);
- Guida agli sportelli linguistic (Guide to linguistic helpdesks);
- La Usc de ladins, weekly magazine.
- At local level, Tebelluno (the most popular private broadcasting company in the Province) broadcasts documentary interviews in Ladin.
- The broadcasting company Antennatre broadcasts news in Ladin.
- The radio broadcasts “Os Ladine” disseminate the Ladin language and culture.

year an exhibition on the working of wood with mother of pearl inlays and next year on filigree).

There is a proposal to set up an area especially dedicated to the young in the historical library Cadorina.

created to enhance and protect the cultural, artistic, historical and linguistic heritage of the village.

The “Union Generela di Ladins dles Dolomites” unites the associations of the Fodom, Col and Ampezo valleys with those of the Badia, Gardena and Fassa valleys.

-Setting up of small theatre groups.

- For the third running year the municipality of Livinallongo del Col di Lana has organised the competition “Men-dränze n poeja” in which numerous writers and poets of the various linguistic minorities of Italy have participated.

-In 2008 a painting and sculpture competition for Ladin artists was organised.

Dialogue” is
awarded.

GERMAN SPEAKING MINORITY (MÖCHENI)

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>TRENTO</p> <p>Municipalities of Palù del Fersina, Fierozzo and Frassilongo</p>	<p>- By means of provincial law 7th August 2006 “Educational and Training System of Trentino” the Province implemented the principle of the protection of local linguistic minorities in the schools located in the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian municipalities.</p> <p>- By means of provincial law No. 6 of 19th June 2008 “Provisions to Protect and Promote Local Linguistic Minorities” the language of a given area is associated to the national language both in official public deeds and in ordinary usage</p>	<p>-Support to the publication sector and to information both written and audiovisual in the respective language of each community.</p> <p>- After the Conference of Minorities has issued its opinion, the Autonomous Province of Trento can conclude conventions with the public licensed broadcasting company to ensure the promotion of the cultural features of the Ladin, Mocheno and Cimbrian populations by means of radio-television broadcasting.</p>		<p>-Setting up of a specific service for the promotion of local linguistic minorities and establishment of the Conference of Minorities tasked with the verification of the implementation level achieved by legislation and projects.</p>	

OCCITAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
COSENZA	<p>-Provincial linguistic helpdesk .</p> <p>- Training course for municipal employees.</p> <p>-Training course for employees of the schools of the minority communities.</p>	<p>-The project Arberia TV Occitana was funded – radio-television broadcasts in the minority language for the Albanian and Occitan linguistic minorities in collaboration with the University of Calabria.</p>	<p>-Toponymy: project entailing the posting of bilingual road signs in Albanian and Occitan</p>		
COSENZA			<p>-Toponymy</p> <p>-Creation of an Internet site.</p>	<p>-Project La Primavera Occitana: in 2008 it was organised for the fourth time, it is an event that involves local pupils and Occitan pupils in the North-West (Peveagno, Oulx, Cuneo, Marseille).</p> <p>-Settimana Occitana (Occitan Week), in 2008 it was organised for the sixth time by the Municipality to promote and favour the knowledge of the history, language and traditions of the only Occitan island in Calabria</p> <p>-Cattedra Occitana. The Province of Cosenza, the University of Calabria and the Municipality adopted a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at establishing technical-scientific collaboration for the protection and enhancement of the Occitan language and culture and at allocating yearly</p>	<p>-Allocation of a study grant for a post –graduate piece of research in Occitan; beneficiary: Prof. Hans Peter Kunert, teacher and expert of Occitan at the University of Calabria.</p>
Municipality of Guardia Piemontese					

funds to research.

-Thanks to European funds the following activities have been carried out: publication of a volume entitled: "Guardia Piemontese the Reasons of a Civilisation: a Survey of the Occitan-Calabrian World"; a school textbook "2° Libre Meu"; a CD with the recording of the didactic modules contained in the textbook; a video containing a documentary entitled: "Guardia Piemontese its Language, History and Cultural Prospects".

IMPERIA
Municipality of
Triora

Thanks to a regional contribution, establishment of a museum of the minority culture in Realdo, under the responsibility of the Association "A Vastera"

"Vastera", an event which took place in summer in Verdeggia

CUNEO

-Organisation of a training course for municipality employees to provide participants with a real oral and written knowledge of Occitan.

-Occitan course and cycle of conferences, shows and concerts

CUNEO

Mountain
Community
Bisalta

-Project aimed at safeguarding, promoting and disseminating the Occitan language and culture

CUNEO
Mountain
Community
Valle Maira

-Linguistic helpdesk.

-Cooperation in the production of the programme "Occitania" of Radio Tre Rai.

-Publication of the

-Bilingual toponyms.

-Publication of a booklet in four languages (Occitan, Italian, English and German) entitled

- The project aimed at the enlargement and improvement of the premises and equipment of the Dronero Museum Son de Lengha is

		magazine “Ousitanio Vivo”.	“Valle Maira – Romanesque and Gothic Treasures” describing the main historical-artistic remains of the 15th Century in Val Maira.	being developed.	
			-Internet sites of various Occitan cultural associations.		
CUNEO Mountain Community of Valli Gesso e Vermenagna	-Linguistic helpdesk available to the public and computer helpdesk. -Training of personnel.	-Purchase of space for bilingual articles in newspapers.	-Library “M. Silvestro” in Robilante -Web site aimed at the linguistic promotion of places.	-Occitan dictionary of the Valle Vermenagna.	
TORINO	-4 linguistic helpdesks: Torino, Atrium, Sestriere, Guaglione to react to the initiative: “The Olympic Games-An Event” - training courses for the helpdesk staff	A press conference to introduce the project “A Communication Event – Occitan Lengua Olimpica” was organised in Atrium	-ATRIUM is the portal of the Olympic Games in Turin; it translated all the multimedia exhibition texts into Occitan -An itinerant helpdesk located in a camper van visited the Municipalities to deliver the Occitan flag and the material of the awareness raising campaign aimed at the Olympic Games	-The project “Communication Event Occitan Lengua Olimpica” was organised in Atrium - Publication of the volume “Olympic Valleys – Occitan mother tongue- Let’s know more” in honour of the ski champion Stefania Belmondo. -Small dictionary of winter sports in Occitan, also posted in the Web and in a CD.	-Postcards, leaflets, bags, scarves, posters were given to Olympic Games visitors.
TORINO Mountain Community Val Chisone e Germanasca	-Management of the supramunicipal helpdesk (consulting, entertainment, Internet, computer equipment) -Translation into Occitan of statutes and documents	Publications: - Eco Mese - Edizioni Protestanti-Riforma - La Valaddo - Torino Sette	-Exhibition on the language -Toponymy	-Promotion day of linguistic helpdesks -Promotion posters and flyers of linguistic helpdesks	
TORINO Mountain Community Val Pellice	-Linguistic helpdesk. -Linguistic training of staff.	-Radio Beckwith Evangelica broadcasts a programme in Occitan (Rabadan) -Plans to broaden the	-Posting of web sites	-Plans to publish an Encyclopedic Dictionary of Occitan Varieties of Val Pellice collecting all	Associations and Foundations connected with the Waldensian Church including

		reception area of RBE both towards nearby Val Chisone and towards a dozen of valleys of the Cuneo area		words used in the seven Municipalities of the Valle	the "Fondazione Centro Culturale Valdese" (Foundation of the Waldensian Cultural Centre) of Torre Pellice and "Amici della Scuola Latina" (Friends of the Latin School) of Pomaretto
TORINO Mountain Community Alta Valle Susa	-Italian-Occitan linguistic helpdesk. -Linguistic courses in all primary schools	-Radio programmes: short broadcasts by Radio Dora and Radio Frejus following the initiatives of the study centre CESDOMEO	-Italian-Occitan web site and virtual museum -Italian-Occitan toponyms	-Music and dance shows.	
TORINO Mountain Community Pinerolese Pedemonte			-Enlargement of the territorial network to include schools of other valleys -Workshops of dance, music and Occitan singing. -Narrative workshops including listening to, understanding and studying of nursery rhymes, legends and tales.	The Mountain Community implemented two school projects: *the first one focuses on Occitan dances and addresses the pupils of primary schools; *the other one focuses on stories, singing, music and dance and addresses kindergarten pupils assisted by external expert staff. - In 2008 participation in the project "The Occitan, Franco-Provençal and French Mother Tongues as Added Value of the Mountain in the Province of Torino"	-Inauguration of the Day of Historical Linguistic Minorities with the display of the Occitan flag
TORINO Municipality of Bardonecchia				- Theatre shows with music and dance	-Snakes and Ladders in which typical places with their Occitan names are depicted
TORINO Municipality of Exilles	Setting up of a linguistic helpdesk.		Publication of a bilingual grammar handbook	Conference cycle on Occitan	
TORINO	Posting of pages in			Thematic evenings	

**Municipality of
Perosa
Argentina** Occitan in the
municipal site .

**TORINO
Municipality of
Salbertrand** Setting up of a
helpdesk for the public.
Italian-Occitan
bilingual web pages.

on the language,
publication of
conference minutes
and round tables.

Cycle of meeting on
Occitan

SARDINIAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
NUORO	<p>-Setting up of a linguistic helpdesk for Sardinian</p> <p>- Inclusion of curricula in Sardinian among ordinary curricula</p>	-Sardinian newspaper “ <i>S’ospile</i> ”.	-Preparation of signs	-Drafting of projects for the protection and enhancement of Sardinian (laboratories, theatre activities, publications, posting of Internet sites)	
CAGLIARI MEDIO CAMPIDANO Municipality of Arbus	<p>-Linguistic helpdesk.</p> <p>-The curricula of kindergartens, primary schools and junior secondary schools envisage writing activities in the local variety of Sardinian and the spoken use of the same language.</p>	-The magazine “Il Provinciale” and the private Radio company “Radio Super Sound” devote space and time for discussion to Sardinian and its local varieties		<p>-Literary competition <i>Contus e Contixeddus</i>.</p> <p>-Courses of traditional dance and theatre plays in Sardinian.</p> <p>-The Social Cooperative <i>Alfa Beta</i> carried out the project “Il Gira.sole”- a piece of research on the history and traditions of Arbus, which ended with the publication of a volume entitled “<i>Arbus, in sa storia e me in is contus</i>”.</p>	
CAGLIARI	<p>-A Provincial Office for Sardinian is being set up.</p> <p>-Opening of a linguistic helpdesk where employees will also be tasked to draw up bilingual municipal administrative documents.</p>	-Local broadcasting companies sometimes broadcast programmes in Sardinian.		<p>-Various projects including the following::</p> <p><i>Progetto Bilngua</i>, to be carried out in association by the municipalities of Castiadas, San Vito e Villaputzu, to achieve a higher degree of Italian/Sardinian bilingualism.</p> <p>-Organisation of a</p>	

			Regional Conference devoted to language diversity in Europe, Italy and Sardinia.
CAGLIARI			
Province of CARBONIA IGLESIA			-The province of Carbonia Iglesias financed a number of projects including one by the Municipality of Fluminimaggiore, entitled <i>Flumini Mayori Bilingua</i> , aimed at enhancing and preserving Sardinian.
SASSARI	-Setting up of the municipal linguistic helpdesk. -Language course for municipal and other public employees.	-The local radio and television companies normally broadcast programmes in Sardinian, including cultural programmes like for example theatre plays. -There are various literary works, publications and magazines in Sardinian.	-Organisation of conferences on the dissemination of Sardinian and cultural events. - Competitions of Sardinian literature and poetry: " <i>canti a poesia</i> " in <i>limba</i> (Sardinian)- they are the most ancient form of local culture.
ORISTANO	Linguistic helpdesk		-Projects aiming at the use of Sardinian in the Public Administration were adopted.

SLOVENIAN MINORITY

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
<p>UDINE Municipality of San Pietro al Natisone</p>	<p>-Teaching of Slovenian in a kindergarten and in a primary school.</p> <p>-In the municipal offices members of staff are able to communicate in Slovenian.</p> <p>-Italian-Slovenian bilingual identity cards.</p>	<p>-There are two bilingual papers: the weekly Novi Matajur and the bimonthly Dom – kulturno verski list.</p>	<p>-There are many cultural clubs.</p>	<p>-Slovenian events:</p> <p>Senjam beneške pesmi, song festival of Benecia;</p> <p>Naš domači jezik, dialect competition promoted by the Municipality of San Pietro al Natisone;</p> <p>Moja vas, dialect competition for school pupils promoted by the Study Centre Nediža;</p> <p>Dan slovenske culture, to celebrate the anniversary of the death of the Slovenian poet France Prešeren;</p> <p>Arengo della Slavia, which recalls the sittings of the ancient “Parliament” of Slavia.</p> <p>-Many choirs enliven the cultural life, including during religious events.</p>	
<p>UDINE Municipality of Cividale del Friuli</p>				<p>-Slovenian events:</p> <p>Dan emigranta traditionally celebrated at the beginning of the year in Cividale.</p>	
<p>GORIZIA</p>	<p>Establishment of an Office for the Slovenian Linguistic Minority at the Prefecture</p>	<p>-The Slovenian programmes of the public radio and television service are regularly broadcasted and they are part of the RAI programme schedule at regional level.</p>	<p>-The procedure for the restitution of Palazzo Fagiani to cultural and scientific institutions, both Slovenian and Italian, is being completed.</p> <p>- As regards toponymy, in a number of municipalities the use of Slovenian is envisaged in addition to Italian in public</p>	<p>Implementation of the following projects:</p> <p>- setting up of booths for simultaneous translation and of a linguistic helpdesk to assist the public in Slovenian and Friulian;</p> <p>- setting up of bilingual road signs as well as of signs in three languages in schools and in the</p>	

offices signs, in Province headquarters
official stationery building.
letterheads, in public
signs, in gonfalons,
in toponyms and in
road signs.

TRIESTE

- The Single Helpdesk provides information on administrative procedures falling under the competence of the Prefecture, of the Provincial Police Headquarters and on services provided by INPS, INPDAP, INAIL.

- The Office for Education in Slovenian is tasked with the legal and administrative management of state schools staff. It also deals with the training and updating of staff, with the drawing up, translation and printing of textbooks, with State exams and with youth related issues. The Office acts as Secretariat of the Regional School Commission for Education in Slovenian established according to article 13 paragraph 4 of Law No. 38/2001.

On the basis of a three year Convention concluded with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department of the Publications Sector, Rai broadcasts news and radio programmes in Slovenian. Television broadcasting is carried out on the third network bis which also rebroadcasts television news programmes in Slovenian produced by both RTV Lubiana and by TV Capodistria.

“Transfrontier campuses” involving students of secondary schools of Friuli, Slovenia, Austria and Hungary.

Study grants allocated each year by the Republic of Slovenia to teachers of schools with Slovenian as teaching language in Italy.

GERMAN SPEAKING MINORITY (WALSER)

Geographic area of settlement	Use of minority languages in public offices and schools	The local press and radio-television broadcasts in minority languages	Infrastructures and social services relevant to minorities	Current cultural initiatives and projects	Other initiatives
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Baceno	-German language courses in primary schools. -Linguistic helpdesk at the municipality.		-The setting up of a museum is envisaged, which is aimed at the collection of tools belonging to the ancient farmers' civilisation.	- Collection of photos and of ancient tools.	
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Formazza	-Linguistic helpdesk for the promotion and dissemination of the Walser language and culture in various spheres including primary schools. -Evening classes aimed at helpdesk staff and open to adults in general.	-The Province provides specific services for the tourist, cultural and linguistic promotion of the Walser community. The quarterly paper "Pumaterblatt", belonging to the community, includes a page devoted to the minority language, in which short stories, news and poems are published.	-Rearrangement of the Museum Casa Forte devoted to the Walser culture; the Museum hosts an exhibition of wooden statues of German origin dating back to the XV and XVI Centuries. -Walser Association of Formazza. -Bilingual signs indicating the names of individual villages. -Posting of the site www.walser-cultura.it	-Participation in the Literature Festival with linguistic conference. -Patron saint's festival with procession in which persons participate wearing the local Walser costumes. -Drafting and carrying out of activities envisaged for the "Standardisation Project of the Spelling of the Piedmont Walser Varieties"	
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Macugnaga	-The Walser helpdesk for relations with users and for the translation of documents upon request is operational. -Walser language courses have been organised by the Walser Association "Verein z' Makana" aimed at the pupils	The quarterly magazine "Il Rosa" publishes news and articles on the Walser culture	-Collection of data relating to toponyms - Posting of the Internet site www.walser.it	-Triennial International Walser meeting. - Celebration of the day of "Wool" and of "Milk"; celebration of St. Nikolaus day and of the Advent.	

	of primary schools		
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Ornavasso	-The Municipality participates in the network of linguistic helpdesks and Offices of all Walser Municipalities in Piemonte. - Walser courses have been organised in the primary and junior secondary schools. -Courses for public employees are being organised.	-Setting up of bilingual road and tourist signs in all municipal buildings and at the main sites.	-a DVD on Walser language and culture is in an advanced stage of development. -Participation in the triennial International Walser meeting.
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Premia	-Course of German and Walser culture classes in schools. -Collaboration with the Formazza helpdesk and collection of material concerning the Walser culture.	-A Museum is being established at the primary school of Salecchio Inferiore -Collection of toponyms with the University of Torino (Piedmontese Atlas of Toponyms).	-Publications: Participation in the drafting of dictionaries for children (Project Amici di Liberi Tutti).- -Participation in the Project Interreg "Walser Alp" (web site). -Participation in the standardisation process of Walser spelling. -Establishment of the sound archive of the Walser community of Salecchio.
VERBANO CUSIO OSSOLA Municipality of Valstrona		-Recovery of an ancient Walser road near Campello Monti. -Posting of an Internet site is under way	
VERCELLI Municipality of Riva Valdobbia		-The Walser cultural Association Riva Valdobbia organised various events managed by the helpdesk including an exhibition in August aimed at	-In Autumn the transcription of the "Essay on the Ancient Language Spoken in Riva Valdobbia" began; this is a valuable work by the Abbot

commemorating which is conserved
 Abbot Antonio at the State
 Carestia who died Archive of Varallo
 about a century ago Sesia and which
 and always displayed collects words and
 an interest in the local toponyms in the
 culture and language Valsesia variety
 in its twofold aspects: and in Walser.
 Valsesia variety and
 Walser.

VERCELLI
Municipality of
Rimella

-Linguistic helpdesk to safeguard the language as well as to favour the dissemination of the language itself; the helpdesk also carries out historical, bibliographic and cultural promotion to enhance the Walser culture.

-The Public Administration uses the minority language to translate notices to the public, ordinances and posters.

-The person in charge of the helpdesk provides translations in tittschu; she also ensures the necessary scientific coordination for a better understanding of the artistic and cultural heritage of the territory, thereby promoting its preservation.

- Support to the organisation and carrying out of exhibitions, folk events, traditional costume festivals and collaboration in the management of the ecological museum of the Walser culture.

-Meetings and events organised both in Italy and abroad in connection with projects aimed at the protection and preservation of the Walser linguistic minority.

- Relations with the other linguistic minorities living in Italy to favour exchanges among communities aimed at promoting the protection of minority languages as well as at cultural tourism.

VERCELLI
Municipality of
Alagna Valsesia

-Linguistic helpdesk.
 -The teaching of the minority language and of the Walser culture is included in the curricula of primary schools.

-Every six months publication of the Gazette "Di Walzer Zeitung", written in the Walser language.

-Projects to teach and preserve the Walser language and culture carried out by local Associations, including the Cultural Centre Walser Gmai and the folk Group "Die Walser Im Land"

VERCELLI
Municipalities of
Carcoforo, Rima
San Giuseppe,
Rimasco

-Initiatives undertaken to protect the linguistic minority through cultural and folk activities to enhance the minority culture.

AOSTA

-Teaching of German

-With the introduction of digital TV in the

- In the framework of the programme

-Project "Walser Alps":

- Over the last few years, the

Municipalities of Gressoney Saint-Jean, Gressoney la Trinité, Issime	kindergartens, primary and junior secondary schools. -German, Titsch and Töitschu courses for adults. -Linguistic helpdesks.	Region Valle d'Aosta, it will be possibile to broadcast a wider range of programmes in the minority language. -Publication of a volume in German on the proverbs of Gressoney.	“Meine Deutsche Mappe”, the Centre for Walser Studies and Culture distributes Italian-German dictionaries to the new pupils of the junior secondary school each year. -Two buildings of Gressoney-La Trinità have been renovated and they now host a Walser museum. - The Intermunicipal Library was inaugurated in Gressoney-Saint Jean.	establishemnt of a common collection of data and of a common tourist agency to safeguard the Walser language and to develop initiatives aimed at raising the awareness of young people. -The three Municipalities have produced a DVD on the Walser which is being distributed to all families.	traditional calendar Messenger Valdôtaine has been devoting a few pages to the Walser community .
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Part D –Appendix

D.1) Regional laws quoted in the Report:

- Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Law No. 26 of 16/11/2009 “*Regional Provisions for the Protection of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority*”
- Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Law No. 29 of 18.12.2007 “*Provisions for the Protection, Enhancement and Promotion of the Friulian Minority*”
- Autonomous Province of Trento, Law No. 6 of 19.06.2008 “*Provisions for the Protection and Promotion of Local Linguistic Minorities*”
- Region Piemonte, Law No. 12 of 07.04.2009 “*Promotion of the Cultural Traditions of non-Autochthonous Historical Linguistic Minorities Living on the Regional Territory*”

D.2) List of projects concerning the use of the language in the Public Administration (linguistic helpdesks and training of relevant personnel) and toponymy for the years 2001-2006, financed by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in compliance with Law No. 482/99.

D.3) Projects financed by the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR) with the funds of Law No. 482/99 referring to school-years 2006-2007; 2007-2008; 2008-2009.

D.4) Table drawn up by the Ministry of Public Education, University and Research (MIUR) including a list of Roma pupils broken down by Region and level of education s.y. 2007-2008

D.5) Table drawn up by MIUR including a list of Roma pupils broken down by Province and level of education s.y. 2007-2008.

D.6) Decision of the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority on the Situation of the Slovenian Minority in Italy in the light of Law No. 38/2001

D.7) Paper by the Federal National Committee of the Linguistic Minorities of Italy (CONFEMILI) concerning the Monitoring of the Framework Convention on National Minorities.

Please note: in the Appendix, only the documents under items D.6 and D.7 have been translated into English.

**INSTITUTIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE FOR THE PROBLEMS
OF THE SLOVENIAN MINORITY**

DECISION No. 1/2009 of 10th February 2009

Having regard to letter No. 14344 of 27th October 2008 by the Ministry of the Interior, Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Central Direction for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities requesting the opinion of the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority on the situation of the historical linguistic minorities in Italy in connection with the implementation of the Framework Convention, including in the light of national protective legislation (Law No. 482 of 15th December 1999 and Law No. 38 of 23rd February 2001);

Whereas the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority, established by Law No. 38/2001, exercises the competences envisaged by Law No. 38/2001;

Considering therefore that the submitted request must be necessarily referred in particular to the implementation of Law No. 38/01;

Deeming advisable furthermore to suggest to the Ministry of the Interior to acquire also the opinions of other institutional bodies, particularly that of the Regional School Commission for Education in Slovenian envisaged by art. 13 of Law No. 38/01, of the Regional Advisory Commission on the Slovenian Minority envisaged by art. 8 of Regional Law No. 26/2007 and of the Organisations representing the Slovenian minority;

Upon proposal of the President:

takes the following majority decision

1. adopting the following opinion on the situation of the Slovenian minority in Italy in the light of Law No. 38/2001 with the enclosed considerations on the conclusions of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – Second Opinion on Italy.

**OPINION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE SLOVENIAN MINORITY
ON THE SITUATION OF THE SLOVENIAN MINORITY IN ITALY
IN THE LIGHT OF LAW No. 38/2001**

In connection with the implementation of Law No. 38/2001 entitled “Provisions for the Protection of the Slovenian Minority in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia”, the

Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority expresses the following considerations.

The President's of the Republic Decree 12th September 2007 defined the delimitation of the territory where Law No. 38/2001 is to be implemented, according to its art. 4.

The first two – non exhaustive – decrees of the President of the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia No. 0346/Pres./2008 and No. 0362/Pres./2008 were issued; they define the bodies that are expected to post bilingual public signs and toponyms (art. 10).

The Regional School Commission for Education in Slovenian (art. 13, paragraph 3) was established although its competences have not been defined.

The stationalisation procedure of the bilingual school of San Pietro al Natisone has been completed and the school now also provides junior secondary education (art. 12, paragraphs 5 and 6).

The Region Friuli Venezia Giulia adopted regional law No. 26 of 16th November 2007 entitled “Regional Provisions for the Protection of the Slovenian Linguistic Minority” and it included a provision in the electoral law easing the election of at least one representative of the Slovenian minority in the regional Council.

Many local authorities have implemented provisions, especially as regards bilingual toponyms and signs, including on the basis of provisions envisaged by Law No. 482/99.

On the contrary many parts of Law 38/01 remain to be implemented, they include the following:

- The issuing of a consolidated text on the legislative provisions concerning the Slovenian minority (art. 6, to be issued within 120 days from the entry into force of the Law)
- Correct spelling of names of Slovenian minority members in official documents (art. 7)
- Use of Slovenian in the Public Administration (art. 8, implemented only to a very limited extent)
- Use of Slovenian in elected bodies (art. 10, partly implemented)
- Public signs and toponymy (art. 10, partly implemented)
- Restitution of real property (art. 19, implemented to a very limited extent)

Provisions concerning the protection of the historical and artistic heritage (art. 20), the protection of social, economic and environmental interests (art. 21), trade unions

and their activities (art. 22), provisions in the electoral sector (art. 26) have also not been implemented.

The article concerning the protection of the German speaking communities of Val Canale (art. 5) has not been implemented.

Special consideration should be given to the implementation of the final provision (art. 28, paragraph 1) concerning the remaining in force of the provisions already adopted following the special statute attached to the London Memorandum of Understanding of 1954; they refer in particular to bilingual identity cards and to bilingual road signs.

As regards education first of all it must be pointed out that the Slovenian Section of the Trieste Conservatory Giuseppe Tartini has not been set up (art. 15, the section was to be set up within three months from the entry into force of the Law). Furthermore, as regards the Office for Affairs concerning the Teaching in Slovenian, envisaged by art. 13, par. 1, the necessary personnel has not been defined nor have the related public competitions for the allocation of the posts been launched, despite the financial allocations envisaged by paragraph 4 of the above article. The implementing provisions concerning the use of Slovenian in school administration, envisaged by art. 11, paragraph 4 would also be necessary. As far as other aspects of education it is to be pointed out that the reform that was recently adopted by Parliament does not lay down the necessary specific provisions covering schools with Slovenian as teaching language. During the debate in Parliament Minister Gelmini accepted an agenda committing the Government to consider the needs of the schools with Slovenian as teaching language. The first drafts of the measures issued by the Ministry take account of such needs to a very limited extent.

In connection with article 14 of Law 38/2001 the reform of the Regional Institute of Educational Research of Friuli Venezia Giulia will have to take account of the needs in term of training of the staff of schools with Slovenian as teaching language.

Serious problems affect the implementation of art. 16 that envisage the financial support to the institutions of the Slovenian minority. According to the relevant legislation, public funding should amount to 10,000 million Liras per year and in the 2008 State budget they amounted to 5,200,000 Euros, but the 2009 Financial law on public spending, adopted by Parliament, they were reduced by 1,200,000 Euros for 2009, by 1,900,000 Euros for 2010 and by 2,130,000 Euros for 2011. If these cuts continue the activities of the Slovenian linguistic minority, especially in the cultural sector, will be compromised.

The Council of Ministers adopted a law-decree whereby the sum of 1 million Euros was reintroduced for 2008. The law decree is being turned into law in Parliament.

It is further worth mentioning that the above law envisages a reduction of funding for theatres and the press; such reductions may adversely affect the functioning of the Slovenian Stable Theatre of Trieste (art. 18) and of the press in Slovenian, particularly the daily Primorski dnevnik.

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE INSTITUTIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

- SECOND OPINION ON ITALY -

I. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring

In connection with the drafting of the third report the Ministry of the Interior has requested the opinion of the Institutional Joint Committee (Point 7 of the Second Opinion on Italy).

Legal framework and unbalanced schemes of protection

The implementation of Law No. 38/01 (item 10) has begun.

Media

The situation of the reception of programmes in Slovenian in the Province of Udine has not changed. According to the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers 3rd December 2007 (Approval of the Convention between the Presidency of the Council of Ministers – Department for Information and the Publications Sector and RAI – Radiotelevisione Italiana S.p.A. for Broadcasting in Slovenian and Italian in the Autonomous Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia) broadcasting in Slovenian is confined to the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia. The Joint Committee agrees that the competent authorities should be more committed towards finding a solution capable of overcoming this long standing obstacle.

Education

(The opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian minority)

Participation

The proposal of the Advisory Committee is shared by the Joint Committee.

II. CONCLUSIONS REFERRING TO THE INDIVIDUAL ARTICLES

Article 3 of the Framework Convention

Territorial delimitation of protected areas

The delimitation was put forward by the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority, established according to article 3 of Law No. 38/01, and it was confirmed by means of a Decree of the President of the Republic dated 12th September 2007. With the present make-up of the Committee, no filibustering on the part of its members was experienced and the decisions concerning the delimitation were taken by a large majority. The presence of Slovenian speaking communities in the central parts of the municipalities of Trieste and Gorizia and in Cividale was confirmed by including these areas in the protected areas; furthermore the offices established in compliance with article 8, paragraph 4 of Law 38/01 were charged with the processing of applications submitted by the minority members living in the above areas.

Article 4 of the Framework Convention

(The opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian minority)

Article 5 of the Framework Convention

Conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture

The Joint Institutional Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority first of all points to the fact that the new Statute of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has not been adopted yet and that any reference to the draft Statute has a purely indicative nature: at present it is impossible to foresee the contents and the adoption schedule of the new Statute. Therefore all references to the draft statute are premature.

As regards the implementation of Law No. 38/2001, that envisages financial allocations for the activities and institutions of the Slovenian minority, the 2009 Financial Law on public spending, which was adopted by the Italian Parliament, lays down a reduction of funding for the year 2009 by 1,200,000 Euros, which is about 25% of the funding envisaged for the year 2008. The budget for the next three years envisages further cuts for 2010 and 2011. The associations of the Slovenian minority have addressed the Government to discuss the difficulties posed by these cuts to the cultural activities of the Slovenian minority, to which the Government reacted with oral promises which however were not confirmed in the text of the Law. The Council of Ministers issued a Law-decree to reintroduce 1 million Euros for the year 2008 and the procedure to turn the Law-decree into Law is under way in Parliament. However it is worth mentioning that the 2009 budget of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, to which the State allocates the funding which are then shared out by the Region itself, confirms the amount that the Law had initially envisaged for the year 2007.

As regards the recommendation according to which the provisions of Law No. 38/01 not strictly related to the adoption of the list of municipalities should be implemented as a priority, the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority states that this was not the case. In particular the Slovenian Section of the Trieste Conservatory has not been set up yet, although Law 38/01 explicitly envisaged that it should have been set up within three months from the entry into force of the Law itself.

Article 6 of the Framework Convention

Spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue

The spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue in the whole settlement area of the Slovenian minority has generally improved, however according to the view of the Committee there exist attempts at marginalising the presence of Slovenian in the territory as well as an excessive display of nationalism. In this context there have been numerous attempts at dividing the Slovenian minority that is to say there has been a failure to recognise forms of dialects typical of the Province of Udine as part of the cultural and linguistic heritage of Slovenian. These attempts, which were recently echoed in an agenda adopted with a majority decision by the Regional Council of Friuli Venezia Giulia, clash with the delimitation of settlement areas, laid down in the above mentioned Decree of the President of the Republic; furthermore in the relevant areas they are supported by a campaign that stirs a feeling of dividedness in the population.

The Committee suggests that the report of the Historical Cultural Italian Slovenian Commission of 25th July 2000 entitled “Italian-Slovenian Relations 1880-1956” be disseminated in schools.

The decree concerning bilingual identity cards, mentioned in the second opinion of the Committee (item 76) has never been withdrawn, but it has been made obsolete by the implementation of the provision on bilingual identity cards, envisaged by Law No. 38/01, which is applied.

Article 9 of the Framework Convention

Programmes for minorities in the media

Despite numerous urgent calls, requests and promises no progress has been made in connection with the reception of programmes in Slovenian in the province of Udine (items 88 and 94); in these programmes for the province of Udine the local varieties of Slovenian should also be used.

Article 10 of the Framework Convention

Use of minority languages in relations with the administrative authorities

According to the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority the use of Slovenian in relations with the administrative authorities (items

96 and 99) has improved but it has not reached a stance whereby it can be considered that the two languages are used on an equal footing.

Even in cases where the right is envisaged, the Slovenian speaking citizens are not on an equal footing as their Italian speaking fellow citizens. An example in this connection is the Rules and Regulations of the Institutional Joint Committee for the Problems of the Slovenian Minority, adopted by means of President's of the Republic Decree No. 65/2002; according to the Committee's Rules and Regulations, the Committee's members may submit documents in Slovenian, but the translation cannot be charged to the operating expenses of the Committee, thereby forcing the Slovenian speaking members to pay for the translation of the documents they want to submit.

Furthermore, the offices envisaged by law No. 38/01 were established in Trieste and Gorizia but not in Cividale del Friuli and they work with a very limited capacity in terms of competences, means and staff.

Bilingual Identity Cards

The Decree of the Ministry of the Interior dated 19th December 2001 (items 104, 105 and 106) was not withdrawn, resulting in a toughening of relations between State bodies and the mayors of three out of the four municipalities involved (Monrupino-Repentabor, San Dorligo della Valle-Dolina and Sgonico-Zgonik). The mayors refused to implement the decree as they considered it illegitimate, so the Prefect of Trieste appointed ad hoc external commissioners to issue identity cards in Italian only to the citizens who had applied for them. After the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic concerning the delimitation of the protected territory, the provisions of article 8, paragraph 3 of Law No. 38/01 entered into force and are actually applied– they envisage the issuing of bilingual identity cards to citizens who apply for them on the entire territory where the minority is settled. Thus, although the provision deriving from the application of the London Memorandum has not been formally repealed, a uniform system has been introduced on the whole territory where the minority is settled.

Article 12 of the Framework Convention

(The Opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian Minority)

Article 13 of the Framework Convention

Private education for national minorities

The problem (par. 116) had already been solved in the previous Opinion of the Advisory Committee

Article 14 of the Framework Convention

Forms of instruction in the minority language

The activity of the bilingual school of San Pietro al Natisone, in the Province of Udine (paragraphs 117, 120, 124 and 126) was further positively developed with the establishment of the junior secondary school with bilingual instruction, starting from school-year 2007-2008. No developments were experienced in connection with the teaching of Slovenian in other schools in the Province of Udine, the same applies to the teaching of Slovenian in the schools with Italian as teaching language in the provinces of Trieste and Gorizia.

In the autumn of 2008 the reform of the education system adopted by the Italian Parliament (known as “the Gelmini’s reform”) gave rise to concern because it provides for the consolidation of schools, cuts of school staff and organisation of full time schooling, without exceptions for the schools of linguistic minorities. The authorities in charge of education orally guaranteed that the schools of the Slovenian minority will be provided with anything they need (staff, structures and equipment) to preserve the present situation. In its first draft Rules and Regulations, the Ministry of Education took account of the specific nature of the schools with Slovenian as teaching language only to a very limited extent.

Article 15 of the Framework Convention

Participation of historical linguistic minorities on a national level

(The Opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian minority)

Participation on a regional level

The Institutional Joint Committee (items 132, 135 and 137) is operational and it issues its opinions on the aspects laid down by Law No. 38/01. No modifications of the law have been applied, and the part on the appointment of four Slovenian speaking members upon proposal of the most representative organisations of the minority has been fully complied with.

The electoral law of the Regional Council of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (item 133) lays down a specific provision which eases the election of at least one councillor belonging to the Slovenian minority to the Regional Council itself. This provision was successfully implemented in the 2008 regional elections.

Art. 21 of Law No. 38/01, setting up a participation mechanism through an adequate representation of the Slovenian minority in the bodies responsible for the drafting of socio-economic and environmental plans, was further developed and included in art. 14 of regional law No. 26/07 (Protection of Social, Economic and Environmental Interests), which has not been implemented yet.

Finally, regional law No. 26/07 itself envisages further participation mechanisms, including the following: definition of the reference organisations of the Slovenian linguistic minority (art. 6) as well as of trade unions organisations and activities (art. 7), establishment of the Advisory Regional Commission for the Slovenian Linguistic Minority (art. 8) and finally the summoning of the Regional Conference on the Protection of the Slovenian Minority.

Representation of minorities in the public administration

(The Opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian minority)

III CONCLUDING REMARKS

Positive developments

(The Opinion of the Advisory Committee does not include comments on the Slovenian minority)

Issues giving rise to concern

The implementation of Law No. 38/01 (item 149) has started although many articles are still pending. The territorial area where the law is to be implemented has been defined.

The reception of television programmes in Slovenian (item 152) is not guaranteed in the Province of Udine.

Recommendations (item 154)

The provisions of Law No. 38/01 not strictly related to the delimitation of the territorial areas of application were not implemented as a matter of priority with the exception of the establishment of the junior secondary school within the bilingual institute of San Pietro al Natisone and of autonomous decisionmaking by a number of Local Authorities concerning bilingual signs and services in Slovenian in favour of citizens.

2. charging the President of the Committee with the task of forwarding the above opinion to the Ministry of the Interior, Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration, Central Directorate for Civil Rights, Citizenship and Minorities.

THE SECRETARY

Cons. Carlo Alberto Manfredi Selvaggi

Signed Manfredi Selvaggi

THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Bojan Brezigar

Signed Brezigar

MONITORING OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION

Committee of German Historical Linguistic Islands in Italy

The Committee, established in compliance with art. 3 par. 3 of Law No. 482/99, carefully examined the content of letter No. 0014344 of 27th October 2008.

The Committee expresses its considerations concerning a number of items contained in the letter, which particularly refer to the specific situation of the islands themselves.

I herewith send various indications, following the order given in the text and without modifications, I did however include relevant comments to ease the work of whoever will draw up the final report.

Media

152

See above. Small communities are unable to manage radio or television companies. It is even difficult to obtain a licence to dub children's cartoons, because the owners of the copyright, like RAI for example, do not even take into consideration the application of a few hundreds of persons, as this is not a commercial type of public. It is possible to obtain the resources to dub multimedia material, but if the licence cannot be obtained, how do you solve the problem?

154

A problem arises from the ban of broadcasting videos financed by Law No. 482 through RAI networks, as a result they are broadcast by networks watched by few people.

Education

18

The experience acquired over the last 4 years shows that a number of minorities have not been able to exploit fully the new opportunities that were provided by legal instruments to develop the teaching of minority languages and cultures. Partly this is explained by the fact that conflicting interpretations of Law No. 482 have a tendency to weaken the obligation of schools to introduce the teaching of minority languages and cultures in the municipalities located within the territories that had been delimited to be protected. Furthermore, the yearly planning of these projects makes it difficult to develop sustainable programmes on the basis of shared didactic objectives, which all schools would then undertake to pursue. Therefore, a study of the obstacles that hinder a wider development of the educational sector appears to be advisable.

110

The representatives of a number of minorities have indicated the need to step up the measures in the sector of teachers' training as well as to provide more assistance in the drawing up of textbooks and other teaching instruments. This applies particularly to the minorities that do not enjoy the support of an origin country as well as to small groups like the German speaking community of Timau, which speaks an ancient form of German, extremely different from standard German.

What has been said can be shared, as within small communities it is often difficult to find teachers belonging to the minority, that is to say knowing the minority culture. The associations may be involved, both in the initiation of training courses for teachers and in school activities.

111

Law No. 482 guarantees training courses for future teachers or for employees of public entities. This is a positive aspect, however beside having a limited number of participants, an important share of the population is neglected, namely the young who need to be taught the language (because at home they did not have a chance to). It is absolutely necessary that Law No. 482 should envisage training courses for ordinary people, who are the only one who can make the language progress. If the people no longer speak the language, what's the use of training courses for employees of public entities?

121

It appears to be advisable to teach the local minority culture and language and not the standard language (e.g. Töitschu and not modern German).

123

The representatives of various minorities believe that the system of individual projects adopted by the Ministry of Education makes it very difficult to guarantee continuity both in the learning process and in working methods.

125

In the primary schools of Sapadda the teaching of the minority language is guaranteed, although on the basis of projects during three months – it would be advisable that they lasted a whole year.

In the junior secondary schools the subject disappears and the efforts made in the five years of primary school are next to nullified.

In kindergartens there are no forms of teaching and, owing to the fact that none of the teachers comes from Sappada, they tend to oppose initiatives aimed at the teaching and promotion of the language.

In any case a problem is also posed by the lack of teachers.

Art. 5 of the Framework Convention

Note by Prader:

The four following items include repetition of proposals and new proposals as well as practical amendments, as the previous report contained mistakes. There exist minorities also in the Region Veneto (Cimbrians 13 and Cimbrians 7 Comuni, then Sappada). The Province of Trento is “autonomous” as is the one of Bolzano. And the Region now bears the official name “Regione Trentino Alto-Adige/Südtirol”. Finally I myself do not know in Italy another cooperation body, hence the wording “some bodies” seems to me not to be fully correct.

65

According to art. 3 par.3 of Law No. 482/1999, some cooperation bodies have been set up acting as institutional link among the various minority communities – which for historical and other reasons are subdivided among the territories of various Regions and/or Provinces with differing degrees of protection- furthermore the grouping of the same minorities at interregional and national level is recognised. In this connection it is worth mentioning the setting up of the “Committee of the German Historical Linguistic Islands in Italy” which took place in June 2002; the Committee includes representatives of the various German speaking groups of the regions Valle d’Aosta, Piemonte, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Veneto as well as of the Autonomous Province of Trento. On condition that they are widely supported by the involved authorities, these cooperation bodies can fulfil a liaison function and a promoting role through the exchange of experiences, drafting of common cooperation programmes, implementation of similar methodologies in the practical activity of protection and promotion of minority languages and cultures. The above mentioned activities can thus help to reduce differences of treatment among regions and/or provinces, that are sometimes considerable.

66

The representatives of minorities deplore the fact that Law No. 482 does not entail the possibility of allocating any important financing, envisaged by the Law, to their private associations. Actually, the subsidies set in compliance with Law No. 482 are exclusively earmarked for local authorities, while the associations of minority groups rightly object that the activity (or contribution) and the fundamental role they carry out to support the promotion and the enhancement of minority languages and cultures are not appropriately acknowledged.

Rightly so, if the Committee may benefit from the subsidies of Law No. 482, it could be more active and better support/help the communities it represents!

We agree with the need of allocating part of the funds directly to the associations, as sometimes initiatives are launched in which local authorities cannot speedily take part.

68

It is worth stressing the need that all Regions provide funding to the Committee.

The above mentioned body, which gathers the representatives of the various German-speaking groups of the Regions Valle d’Aosta, Piemonte, Friuli Venezia Giulia and

Veneto has been recognised by all involved Regions/Provinces, but the only body granting funding for its activities since the establishment of the Committee itself in 2002 is the Autonomous Region Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol.

71

It would be advisable that Law No. 482 in addition to financing helpdesks, multimedia activities (radio and TV), toponymy, etc. could also provide funding for initiatives aimed at the promotion of the language, including periodical publications (other than vocabularies or static collections) such as texts, short stories and daily articles in the minority language. In a small village all on its own, like Sappada, it is unlikely that a radio or a television company can be set up (all types of difficulties: staff, costs, equipment, isolation), therefore the only available means for the promotion of the language is printed paper. Often these activities are not included among the admissible ones!

Art. 10 of the Framework Convention

97

Nothing to be added, except that a number of minority languages are not capable of expressing the concepts of the public administration, as a result this initiative may not be necessary in a number of communities.

103

The advisability of bilingual signs is stressed; additionally, in the cases when the toponyms are expressed only in the minority language, administrations should avoid to translate them into Italian and should use the correct spelling.

Proposal of setting up a network of linguistic minorities

Note by Prader:

This would be a totally new aspect, which, it seems to me, should be taken in serious consideration

In an age in which the speed and reliability of information dissemination is becoming a core issue for success, it may be useful for linguistic minorities to rely on the various levels of information “agencies”, adequately interconnected. Obviously the privileged and most effective tool is the Internet. These “agencies” may be of two different types, a public one and one dedicated to the associations.

The public network

The public network, at its lowest level, should be made up by: the State, the Regions (and the Autonomous Provinces) and the Municipalities. Obviously, there should be some form of connection with European and international bodies. This type of structure is very basic, as it obviously may also include the Mountain Communities, the Provinces, etc.

The network of associations

It includes Confemili, the associations of various minorities (e.g. the Unitary Committee of German Speaking Minorities) etc.

Obviously the two types of networks are to be closely interlinked.

The establishment of such a type of architecture is not simple – means, persons and funds are needed. However, the objective should be pursued following a general architecture whose starting point could well be Law No. 482/99 and the Ministry, which could start by creating a portal which includes all information and subjects and provides the chance to interact and to get constant updating.

To me the meaning of general architecture implies the participation and a well defined role for each participant; it should be a reference at all levels with a sharing of tasks that avoids waste. I can also imagine that there could be a sort of common trademark to identify all actors belonging to the network.